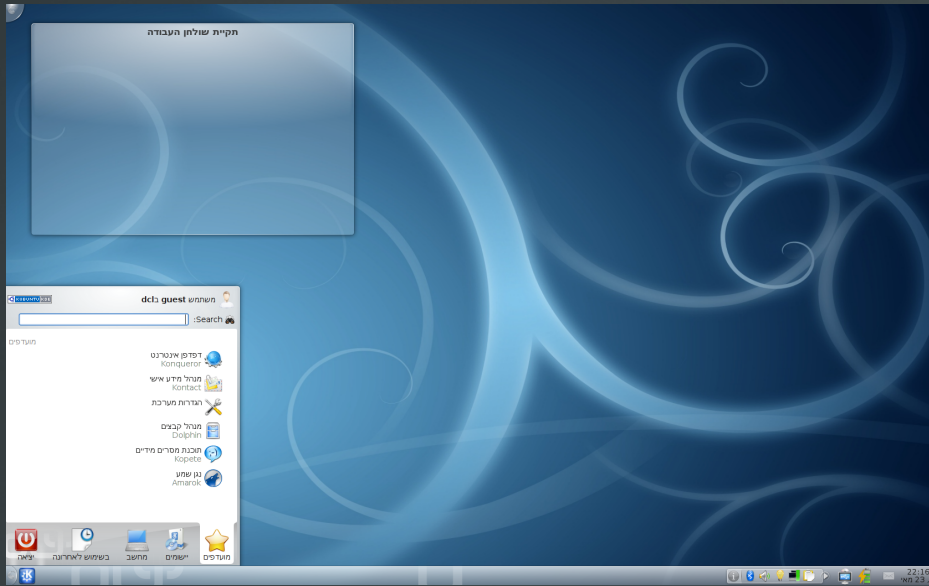# KDE SC 4

The Good

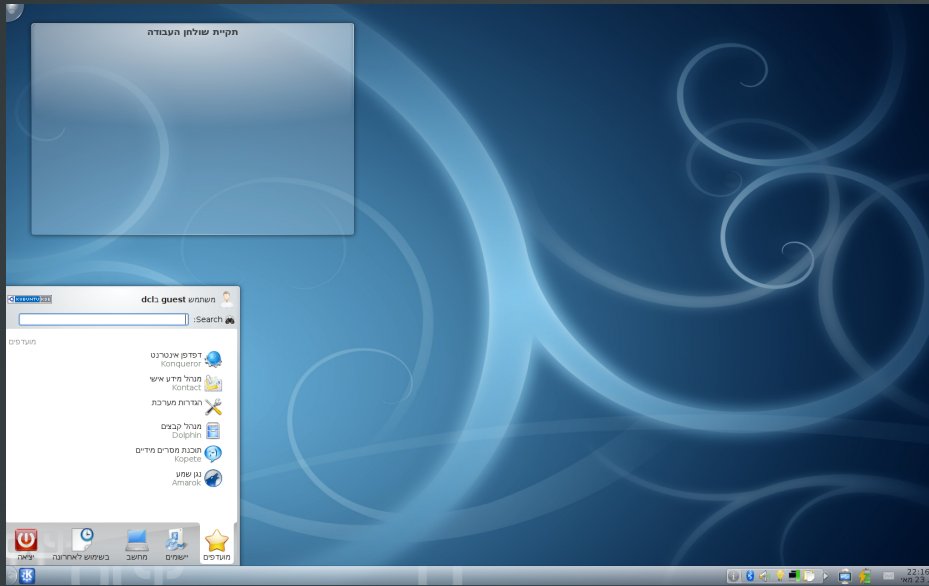Innovative features and unique solutions.

The Bad

Questionable fundamental design decisions.

The Broken

Longstanding and often-reported bugs.

What is KDE SC 4

SC: Software Collection

The KDE Community's main product. It includes all software created by the community.

Plasma Desktop

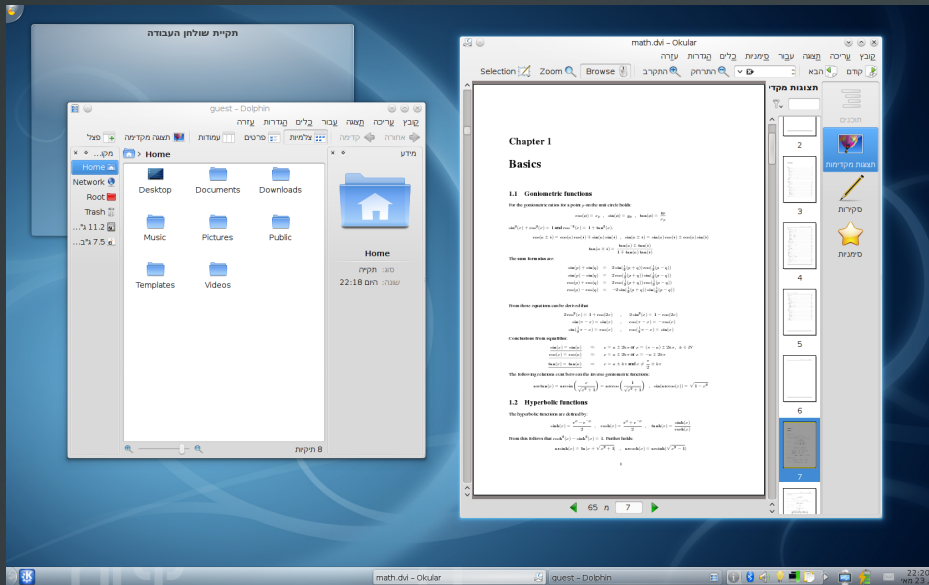The core environment including the workspace and panels.

Key Applications

Software suites and programs which provide key functionality.

KDE 4: The Good
Innovative features and unique solutions

Plasma Desktop
Configurable widgets on the panel and on the desktop.

Dolphin File Manager
Simple, powerful, configurable. Includes split view, sorting and preview options, and a built-in terminal emulator.
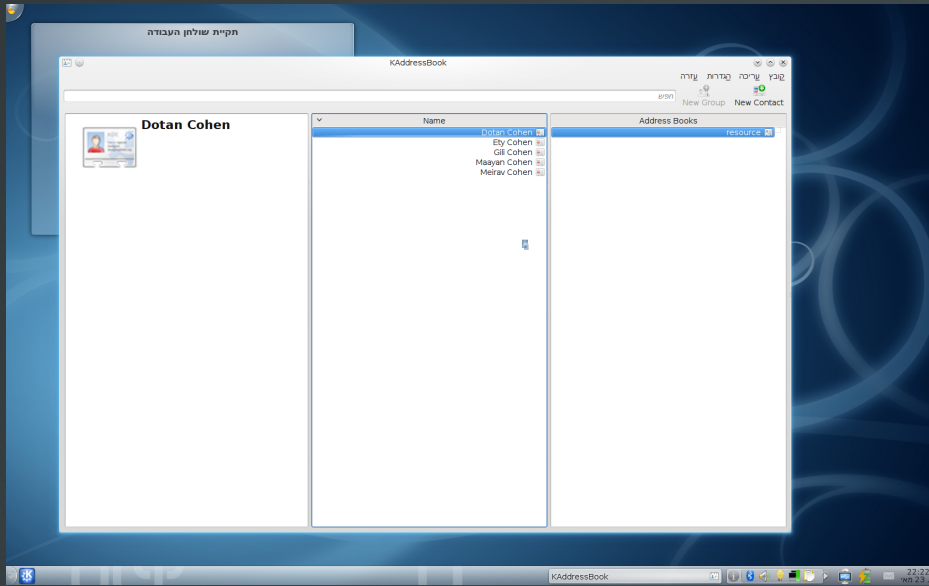
Okular Document Viewer
Supports many innovative features to redefine how we interact with electronic documents.

KDE 4: The Bad
Questionable fundamental design decisions

Disregard for feature stability and users' needs
Seemingly no regression testing is performed for either Plasma or key applications.

Experimental and incomplete software in major releases
Core features of key applications are removed between "x.N" releases.
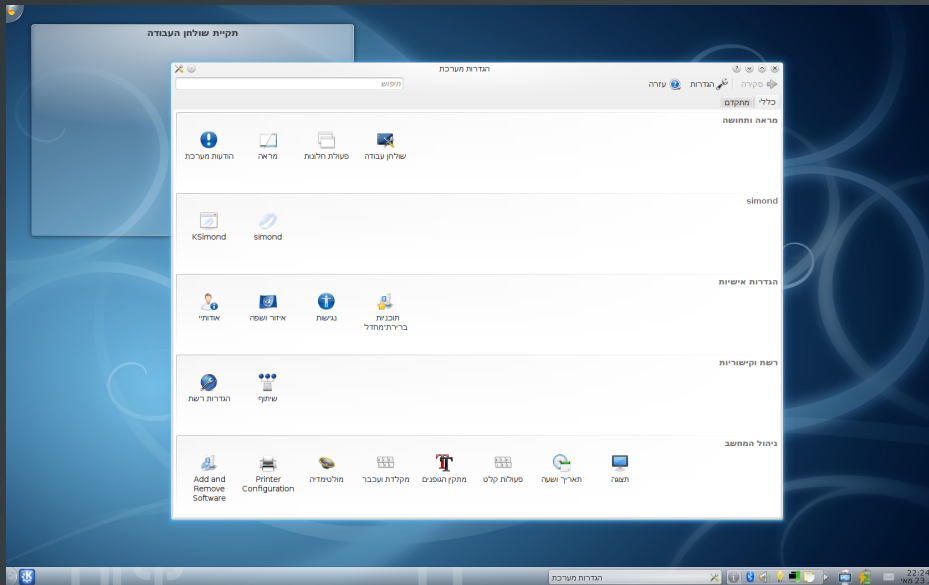
Misleading versioning scheme
Hijacking of the "x.0" paradigm to release developer-preview software.

KDE 4: The Broken
Longstanding and often-reported bugs

Wrong timestamp on files copied to fish protocol
Reported in 2003 as bug #55804.

"System Settings" does not change the system's settings
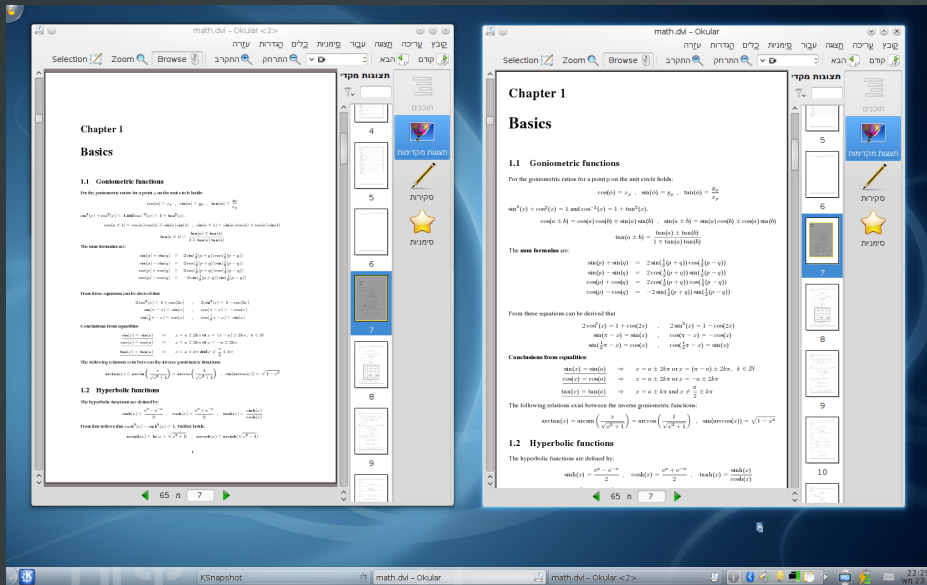Several bugs dating to 2004 (bug #82009) and possibly earlier.

Proxy settings are not followed
Introduced in KDE 4.0 as bug #155707.

The Good: Okular Document Viewer

Simple to use, yet many innovative features

Trim Margins

Fit more content onto the page without horizontal scrollbars.

Continuous pan

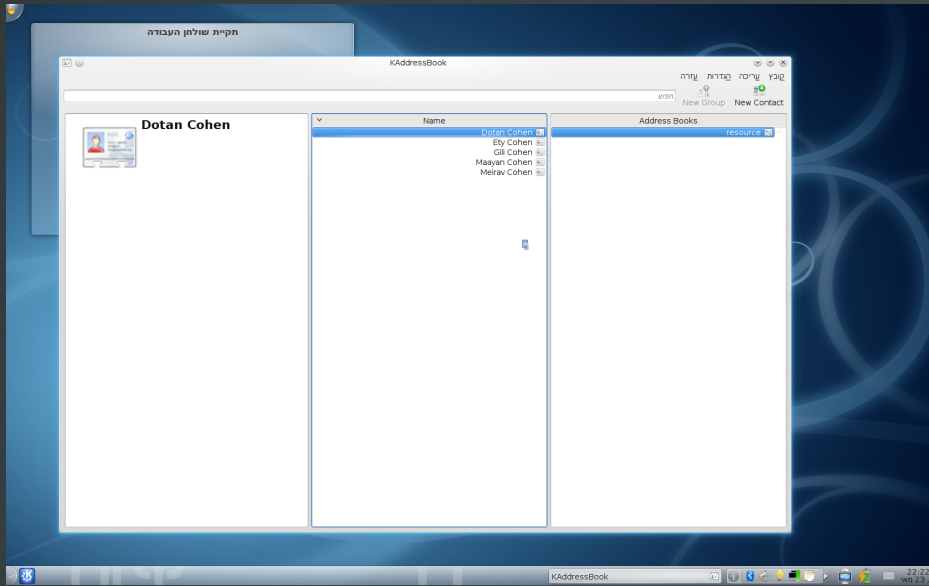Files continue to pan even when the mouse leaves the screen edge.

Accessibility options

Convert to black & white, change background colour.

The Bad: Misleading versioning

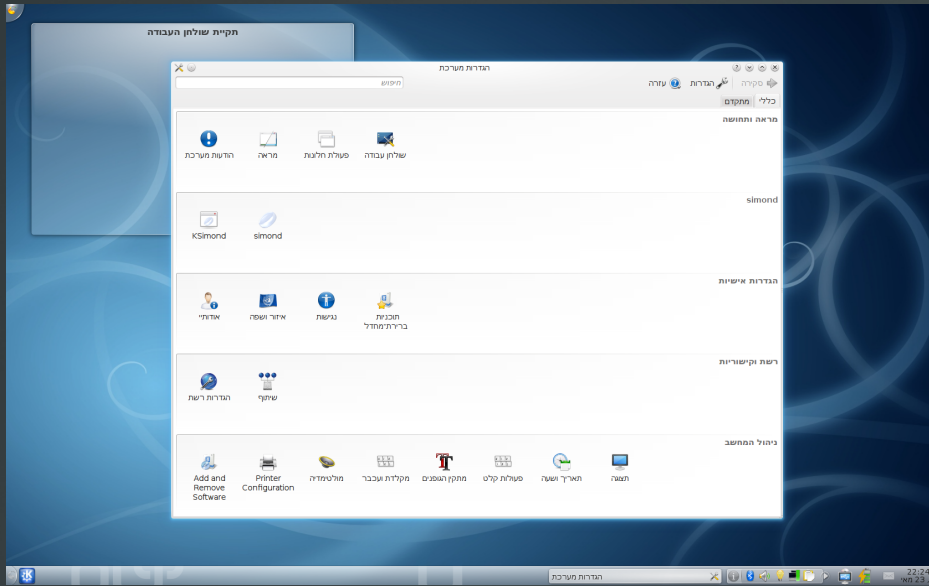## Ignoring FOSS versioning conventions misleads packagers

Usage of "x.0" version numbers

The "x.0" moniker is an accepted and long-standing convention for a stable software release. Hijacking that convention and appending a "Developer Preview" subtitle does not change the implied stability of such a release.

KDE SC Software which has used "x.0" version numbers for incomplete software

× KDE

× Amarok

× Koffice

The Broken: "System Settings" simply isn't
The misleading name is a common source of user frustration

Despite the name, "System Settings" affects only KDE settings.

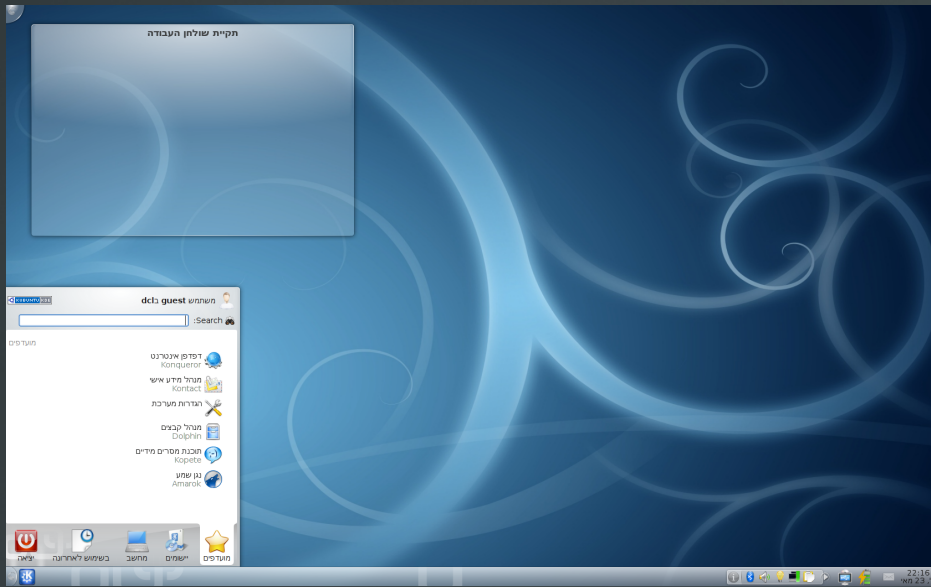This causes confusion when non-KDE apps do not behave as expected.

Even when the app was called Kcontrol there were requests to write configuration changes as system-wide

Bug #82009 was opened in 2004, other bugs requesting similar functionality may have been filed even earlier.

More Information

KDE SC Users

http://kde.org

http://userbase.kde.org

http://mail.kde.org/mailman/listinfo/kde

KDE SC Developers

http://kde.org

http://bugs.kde.org

http://techbase.kde.org

http://mail.kde.org/mailman/listinfo/kde-devel

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