



**N**o matter whether you need quick access to the KDE address book, or a list of the upcoming birthdays in the next days, the KickPIM applet in the Panel will help you find important addresses more quickly in future and provide email shortcuts.

Besides a contacts overview, the applet also has the ability to quickly and simply mail the people on the list. To make sure that you do not miss out on information, this friendly helper also monitors your email accounts and lets you know when new messages arrive.

## Into the Panel

You can download this “big brother” for your panel from the project homepage at [http://sourceforge.net/project/showfiles.php?group\\_id=65086&release\\_id=195756](http://sourceforge.net/project/showfiles.php?group_id=65086&release_id=195756). The current version is 0.5.3 and is codenamed “Society”. This article will be referring to version 0.5.3.

Type the following commands to unpack the package:

## KickPIM

# Quick Access

The Kicker applet KickPIM gives you direct access to your diary and address book including the upcoming birthdays and anniversaries of your family and friends. **BY STEFANIE TEUFEL**

```
bunzip kickpim-0.5.3.tar.bz2
tar xvf kickpim-0.5.3.
tar.bz2.tar
```

Before you launch into the install, feed the directories that store any KDE software on your system to the `KDEDIRS` environment variable. The following command did just that for our lab computer:

```
export KDEDIRS=/opt/kde3:/usr
/local/kde
```

Now change to the directory created by the previous steps, `kickpim-0.5.3`, and follow the usual three steps, *configure; make; make install*, to finish building the program from the source code.

The application is now on your system, but not sitting in the panel. To create a permanent KickPIM entry in the panel, right click the panel, and select the KickPIM entry below *Add | Applet*.

If everything works out correctly, you should now have an icon with a clock and a calendar sitting in your KDE kicker panel. Left click the icon to pop up a window with a little calendar like the one shown in Figure 1. Don't worry, by the time we have finished configuring the applet, the calendar will be full of additional information.

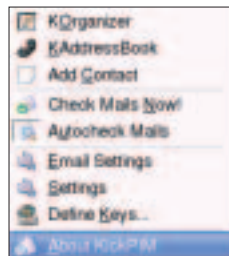
Right clicking on the applet will open the drop-down menu shown in Figure 2, which gives you access to a variety of settings. You can use the menu to configure KickPIM to reflect your needs, and

also set up the email monitoring feature. Also, entries for *KOrganizer* and *KAddressBook* give you direct access to both these tools.

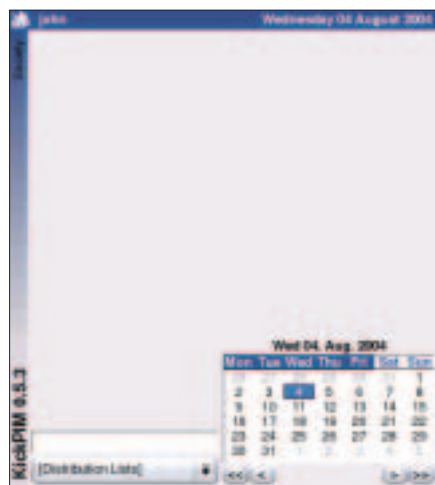
## As You Like It

When you select *Settings* in this menu, it opens the preferences menu and the *Display* tab appears, allowing you to specify general settings (see Figure 3). This is where you can configure options such as whether to display the user name and current date when you open the KickPIM window, and whether you want to display the calendar, and the helpful tooltips.

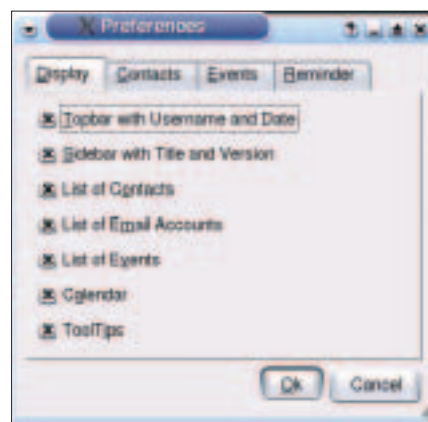
Additionally, the developers give you the option of choosing between a number of lists (email accounts, events, etc.). The applet displays only your selections and looks a lot more organized for doing so. However, the default is to select everything. You need to remove checkmarks to disable the components you do not want.



**Figure 2: The drop-down menu gives you access to the program configuration.**



**Figure 1: KickPIM gives you a calendar by default.**



**Figure 3: If you do not need the calendar or tooltips, simply disable them.**

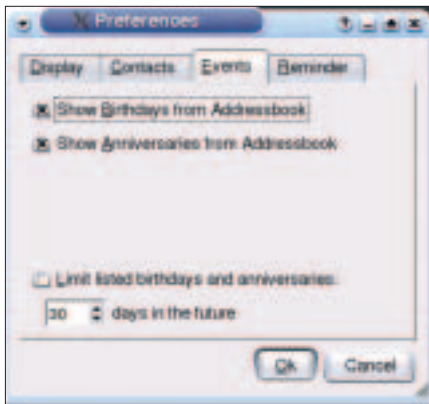


Figure 4: Remember those important dates, with a little help from KickPIM.

The *Contacts* tab is all about the addressbook. You have options for displaying the contacts from your KDE addressbook, specifying the sorting order, or what to do with an entry when you double click it (send an email or edit the contact), specifying whether to display cc lists, or allow multiple selections, or if the applet should display a search box.

The *Events* allow you to specify whether KickPIM should display the birthdays and anniversaries stored in your addressbook. If you opt for this display variant, you can also specify an unlimited display, or restrict the display

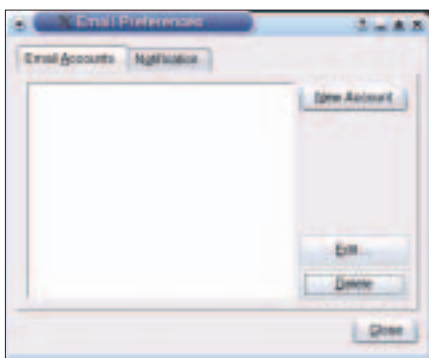


Figure 5: The window with the email preferences is well-organized.

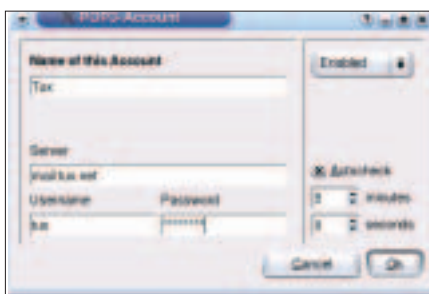


Figure 6: The applet provides a convenient dialog for email account management.

to a specific period (see Figure 4). If needed, the program can remind you of really important dates. Use the *Reminder* field to specify how many days in advance of a birthday you want to be reminded.

## The Postman Always Rings Twice

As previously mentioned, KickPIM can monitor your mailboxes for incoming mail. To allow KickPIM to announce incoming messages, you first need to configure the email accounts that you want KickPIM to monitor. To do this, select *Email Settings* in the drop-down.

To set up a new email account to check, click *New Account* in the *Email Accounts* tab. This opens the dialog shown in Figure 5, allowing you to set up the account you want to monitor. Use the pull-down menu to select from the most popular mailbox types: **POP3**, **IMAP** and **Mbox**.

To set up a POP3 account, use the window shown in Figure 6 to enter a name for the account, and then enter the POP3 server address (typically your mail provider's mail server), the username and password for the server. The pull-down menu at the top right-hand corner of the window allows you to enable (default) or disable the account.

You also need to specify the interval at which KickPIM should check the server that stores the account. If you need to modify or even delete the account later, simply click the *Edit...* or *Delete* button in Figure 5.

The second tab *Notification* allows you to define how the tool should react in case of new email messages. You can opt to pop up a message, play a sound clip, or simply launch your mail program.



Figure 8: Double click to display a full set of information on the selected contact.

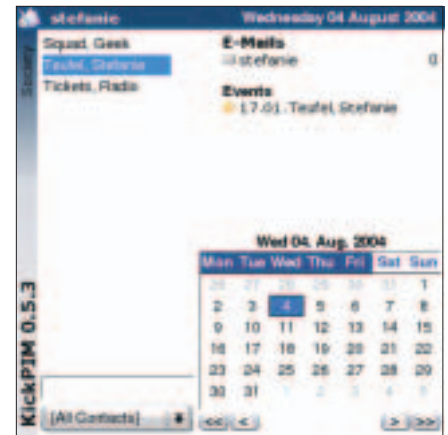


Figure 7: After completing the configuration, KickPIM has a whole bunch of additional information on display.

This completes the configuration of KickPIM, and it's time to put the tool to some practical use. To do so, simply left click the icon in the kicker panel. In addition to the scenario shown in Figure 2, you should now have your KDE addressbook contacts and a list of any upcoming birthdays or other events on the right.

The software also tells you how many messages are waiting for you. The calendar is displayed bottom right, with an input field bottom left. This input box is where you can search your address directory for specific contacts (see Figure 7).

On mouse over, a short text is displayed for each of the entries, and you can double click on the name entry in the left-hand panel to display the full set of contact data (see Figure 8, above). Right clicking on an entry pops up a dialog with options for editing, removing, or adding entries, and you can use the same approach to mail the selected contact, or add notes to an entry.

## GLOSSARY

**IMAP:** Short for Internet Message Access Protocol. This protocol allows users to access messages stored on remote servers. IMAP is a client/server protocol that receives email messages, and stores them for retrieval by a user. The email client only gets to see the sender details and the subject line of the message at first, allowing the user to decide whether to download the message on the basis of this

information. However, the client still manages the messages on the server.  
**POP3:** Short for Post Office Protocol 3. In contrast to IMAP, POP3 is a fairly simple protocol for email collection. Like IMAP, the server first stores the messages. If the client then requests the received messages, the server transmits the whole message, deleting the mail after receiving a signal.