Starting the desktop

Interacting with your Raspbian system at the Command-Line Interface (CLI) gives an insight into the power of commands. Many Linux “boxes” are used at just that level, especially web servers, but you will probably want to see a more familiar graphical desktop that lets you interact using your mouse.

With the Raspbian system, an “X” server provides a Graphical User Interface (GUI) that automatically employs a window manager to control running application windows.

When you boot Raspbian, the X server will not automatically get started if you configure your system as a basic console. Simply issuing a `startx` command at the command prompt will start the X server and load the graphical desktop environment.

1. Start up your Raspberry Pi then log in to the system as the default user `pi` with the `raspberry` password

2. When the user prompt appears, type `startx` then hit Return – see the graphical desktop load in the screen

You can use Boot Options in the configuration tool to change how your system starts up.
3. Click the Menu button then select the Shutdown menu item – to launch the “End session” dialog box.

4. Choose “Logout” then click **OK** to close the desktop.

5. Enter your username and password to restart the desktop.

   If you wish to shutdown the system you can do so from the “End session” dialog or from a command prompt in a Terminal window or in a basic console.

1. Click the “Terminal” launcher button to open a Terminal window that provides a command line prompt.

2. Precisely type the command `sudo shutdown -h 0` at the prompt, then hit Return to completely close the system.

Features of the graphical desktop are described in the next chapter – but you may like to explore the menu items now.

You can restart the system using the Reboot option in the “End session” dialog or from a command prompt by issuing the command `sudo shutdown -r 0`.