

FloDee User Manual

The complete guide to FloDee for Linux

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1. Getting started

FloDee brings your apps, files, notes and tools to wherever your mouse pointer is. A small Floater Dot follows you around the screen; summon it and your panels appear around it, ready to use, then slip away when you move on.

This manual describes FloDee for Linux. It runs on X11 desktops (GNOME on Xorg, KDE Plasma on X11, Xfce, Cinnamon, MATE, LXQt and others). Some features depend on what the desktop allows: FloDee checks, and anything this desktop cannot do is hidden rather than shown broken. On Wayland sessions most of FloDee's tricks are not permitted by the desktop, so log in to an X11 (Xorg) session to use it fully.

Programs FloDee uses

FloDee runs without these, but the feature next to each needs it. When one is missing, FloDee tells you the package to install.

Package	Needed for
ffmpeg	Recording video and GIFs, webcam recording
tesseract-ocr plus a language pack (e.g. tesseract-ocr-eng)	Capture Text (OCR)
xdg-utils	Opening files, folders, links and these manuals
pulseaudio-utils (pactl), or pipewire-pulse	Volume Mixer, Audio Device Switcher, MixSaviour, recording with sound
imagemagick	A fallback way to grab the screen on some systems
A terminal emulator	Floater menu › Terminal
OBS Studio with its WebSocket server on	The OBS Control panel (optional)

2. Opening FloDee

Gesture / key	What it does
Double-tap ` (backtick)	Bring FloDee to the pointer. The key still reaches the app you are typing in.
Forward mouse button	Bring FloDee to the pointer (the thumb button, X11 button 9). The press still reaches the app under the cursor.
Ctrl + Alt + Space	Bring FloDee to the pointer from the keyboard.
Hover the Floater Dot	The panels appear after about a quarter of a second.
Move the pointer away	Everything hides once the pointer leaves the dot and its panels by more than the Hover Buffer (Settings > Inputs).

A summon brings the Floater Dot to your pointer and shows your panels around it. Move the pointer well away and everything slips out of sight again — unless  Lock Open is on, the dot is  Dormant, a menu is open, or you are dragging or resizing a panel.

3. The Floater Dot

Gesture / key	What it does
Left-Click	Show or hide the panels; wakes a dormant FloDee.
Hold Left & Drag	Move the dot.
Right-Click	Open FloDee's menu.
Middle-Click	Exit FloDee immediately (your layout is saved automatically).
Drop files on the dot	Stage them on the File Shelf.

The menu (right-click) is where panels are added, layouts saved and recalled, captures started and tools opened; the Menus Manual lists every entry. The whole menu can be reordered, trimmed and regrouped in Settings > Menus.

4. Panels

Add panels from the Floater menu >  Add Panel. Every panel can be moved, resized and saved as part of a layout.

Gesture / key	What it does
Drag the title bar (or an empty part)	Move the panel.
Edges and corners	Resize the panel.
Mouse wheel on a title bar	Step through your Saved Home Positions.

Double-click a title bar	Flip between Home 1 and the last home used.
 Anchor Panels (Floater menu)	Lock every panel in place.
Right-click a title bar	Panel options (Magnifier, Input Visualizer, Chat Channel, OBS Control, Widgets).

User Apps

Your quick-launch grid: installed applications plus the files and folders you pinned. An icon pulses until the program's window appears.  Panel Loader fills a new User Apps panel with every image, video, document, audio file or archive found in a folder, or with a wildcard / regular-expression match.

Gesture / key	What it does
Left-Click	Launch the app, or open the file or folder.
Middle-Click	Launch a new instance.
Ctrl + Scroll Wheel	Resize the icons.

Files

Browse your folders without leaving what you are doing. It opens in your home folder; Ctrl + wheel changes the view from tiny icons up to a Details list.

Gesture / key	What it does
Left-Click	Open a file with its default program; a folder opens in the panel.
Middle-Click	Open the item's containing folder.
Ctrl + Left-Click	Copy the item's path.
Ctrl + Scroll Wheel	Cycle views: super-small, small, medium and large icons, then Details.
	Back / forward through the folders you visited.
	Jump to the top of the file system (/).
	Close the panel and reset it to your home folder.
Backspace or Alt + Up	Up one folder.
Alt + Left / Alt + Right	Back / forward.
Arrow keys, Enter	Move the selection, open it.
Type letters or digits	Jump to a matching name.
Ctrl + H	Show or hide hidden (dot) files.
Esc	Hide the panel.

Notepad

Quick, persistent plain-text notes, saved as you type into ~/.local/share/flodee/notes.

Gesture / key	What it does
(typing)	Saved automatically a moment after you stop.
Ctrl + F	Search: Enter finds the next match, Shift + Enter the previous one, Esc closes.
Ctrl + S	Save right now.
A- / A+	Text size, 6 to 36 pt.
	Insert an entry from your clipboard history at the cursor.
 or right-click > Clear All Text	Clear the note (asks first).
Esc	Close search, or hide the panel.

Open Apps

One icon for every open window, plus a clock. What FloDee can do to other programs' windows is up to your window manager; if it refuses something, the panel says so.

Gesture / key	What it does
Left-Click an icon	Bring that window to the front.
Right-Click an icon	Minimise it, or restore it if minimised.
Middle-Click an icon	Close the window gently.
Shift + Right-Click	Maximise or restore.
Ctrl + Scroll Wheel	Resize the icons.
F5	Refresh the list.
Esc	Hide the panel.

Clipboard History

Your last 100 copies (adjustable), text and images, kept on this computer only.

Gesture / key	What it does
Click an entry	Copy it back to the clipboard (images come back as pictures).
Ctrl + Click / Shift + Click / Ctrl + A	Build a selection; Esc clears it.
 Copy or Enter	Copy the selection back; several texts are joined line by line.
 Pin	Pinned entries are kept forever and listed first.
X Delete or the Delete key	Remove from the history.

Search box	Filter the history.
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Magnifier

Gesture / key	What it does
Scroll Wheel	Zoom (1× to 32×) toward the pointer.
Left-Click + Drag	Pan.
Right-Click	Smooth Scaling, Reset Zoom, Center on Cursor,  Copy Color Here.

Input Visualizer

A live drawing of your mouse and keyboard that lights up as you use them — for streaming, tutorials, or checking a flaky button.

Gesture / key	What it does
Scroll Wheel	Zoom the drawing.
Right-click the title bar	Show Mouse, Show Keyboard, Reset Zoom, opacity.
Alt + Shift + R	Treat the forward mouse button as a wheel tilt on the drawing.

Volume Mixer

A slider and mute for every app making sound, plus the output device's master volume. Needs pactl.

Widgets

A clock, bandwidth, CPU, memory and per-drive disk-space monitors. Hover a widget for its recent history; right-click the title bar to choose which appear and their size.

Who's Online

Which of your contacts are reachable now, found automatically on your local network. Set your own status: Online, Away, DND, Invisible or BRB.

OBS Control

Remote-controls OBS Studio through its built-in WebSocket server: record, pause and stream with timecodes, markers, auto-stop, replay buffer, virtual camera, Studio Mode, screenshots, encoder presets, a mixer with meters, scenes, sources, text sources, hotkeys and OBS Snapshots. In OBS, open Tools › WebSocket Server Settings, enable the server, and copy its password into this panel's OBS Connection Settings (right-click the title bar). It only talks to the address you enter — your own computer by default.

5. Capture

⌘ Capture Region saves a PNG screenshot (to Pictures, or your chosen folder) and puts its path on the clipboard. 📹 Record Region (GIF) and 📺 Record Video record an area of the screen; Record Video can include system audio, the microphone or both, and asks once before recording either. 📄 Capture Text (OCR) reads the text in a region on your own computer and copies it. Each offers Exclude FloDee (FloDee hides first) or Include FloDee.

Gesture / key	What it does
Left-Click & Drag	Mark the region.
F	Select the whole screen.
Esc or Right-Click	Cancel.
🕒 Start Timer	Off, 3, 5, 10, 15, 30 seconds or 1 minute before the capture starts; one shared setting.
Countdown pill	✕ Cancel, Esc or right-click aborts.
Recording pill	■ Stop, Esc or right-click stops; ➡ draws on the recording, ✏ clears the drawing.
Caption prompt (optional)	Type a caption and press Enter, or Esc to skip.

Webcam

📷 Webcam (Photo / Video) opens a live preview with a camera picker, a Mirror switch (preview only — saved files are never flipped) and Record mic. Photos are saved as PNG and videos as MP4, and each saved file goes on the clipboard, ready to paste. ⚙ Camera Settings shows only what your camera offers. FloDee asks once before first turning the camera on, and the camera is on only while the window is open. If OBS is using the camera, FloDee borrows it and gives it back when you close the window.

The Webcam menu appears only if a camera was connected when FloDee started. If the camera cannot be opened for lack of permission, add your account to the "video" group, then log out and back in.

Gesture / key	What it does
📷 Photo or Space	Save a photo (after the 🕒 Start Timer if one is set).
● Record / ■ Stop	Record an MP4 video.
Esc	Close the webcam window.

Screen Ruler

Gesture / key	What it does
Move the mouse	Crosshair and readout follow.
Click + drag	Measure; releasing copies the measurement.
Click	Copy the colour under the pointer.

C	Copy the current colour.
U	Cycle units: Pixels, Metric, Imperial.
X	Toggle the inverting crosshair.
G	Toggle the tick marks.
Esc or Right-Click	Close the ruler.

6. Tools

Tool	What it does
 MixSaviour — Mixer Profiles	Save the whole audio mix under a name and recall it later.
 Command Palette	Type to find open windows, User Apps, FloDee actions, workspaces, clipboard entries, snippets and recent captures. Developer keywords: b64enc, b64dec, urlenc, urldec, md5, sha1, sha256, jwt, epoch, uuid, upper, lower, title — followed by text, or nothing to use the clipboard; Enter copies the result.
 Color Picker	ARGB sliders, a hex box,  Pick from Screen,  Copy Hex / Copy RGBA, presets.
 Grep	Search inside files.
 Programmer's Calculator	Number bases and bit views.
 Unit Converter	Everyday unit conversions.
 Audio Device Switcher	Choose the default playback and recording device.
 Port / Process Peek	See which program listens on each TCP port, and end it.
 WhoIs Lookup	Look up a domain or address (the only tool that contacts the internet, and only when you press Look Up).
 Text Snippets...	Manage snippets that FloDee types into the focused app.
 File Shelf	A drop zone for gathering files; lasts for the session.
 Screen Ruler	Measure distances and pick colours anywhere on screen.
 Snap Window to Zone / Snap Zone Layout	Snap the active window into a zone: Halves, Thirds, Quarters, Main + 2 side, Left 2/3 + right 1/3.

7. Layouts and windows

 Workspaces save everything about a way of working — the panels, the pinned User Apps, and where your programs' windows are (relaunching any that are closed).  Panel Layouts keep just FloDee's panels; Quick Panels Save / Load and Quick Apps Save / Load are one-slot versions.  Saved Home Positions keep several arrangements of your panels, recalled from the menu or with the mouse wheel on a title bar.

 Snapshots record the open windows and their positions. Restoring one closes any window not in the snapshot — save your work first.

 Deskspace switch your desktop ICONS between sets (Work, Gaming...). A parked deskspace is a folder of your real files under ~/FloDee Deskspace; files are only ever moved, never deleted. Use  Remove Deskspace... rather than deleting a folder by hand. Wallpaper switching needs gsettings; GNOME shows desktop icons only with its desktop-icons extension.

 Window Layout arranges every open window — stacked, side by side, in a grid or cascaded — and can minimise, restore, dismiss flashing, or force-close them all.

8. Chat Channel and network

The Chat Channel sends text, files and folders directly to other FloDee users on your local network — encrypted, peer-to-peer, never through any server of ours. FloDees on the same network find each other automatically (switch that off in Settings > Network > Discovery). Pair from Settings > Network > Discovered Nearby, or add a contact from Who's Online. Messages and files from someone you have not approved ask first: Approve & Trust, Accept Once or Reject.

Contacts who are not running FloDee can be reached by email through your own mail server (the  button; set up in Settings > Network > Email). Attachments over 25 MB can go through your own FTP server instead (Settings > Network > FTP). FloDee never operates a mail or file server itself.

9. Settings

Every change takes effect immediately and is saved automatically. See the Settings Manual for each tab.

Tab	What it covers
General	Desktop integration (start at login, a 'flodee' command in ~/.local/bin), Language, Favorite Settings File, restart FloDee.
Inputs	Keybind Editor (your own triggers for FloDee actions), Panel Click Bindings (the panels' mouse gestures), the Hover Buffer and other summon and hide timings.
Open Apps & Windows	How the Open Apps panel behaves.
Panels	Panel behaviour, the Files panel, tooltips and submenu placement, the list of every panel with Delete.
Appearance	The Floater's and panels' colours, backgrounds, borders and theme.
Widgets & Extras	Which widgets show.
Capture	Folders and formats for screenshots and recordings, editors, clipboard-history size, the Screen Ruler, the caption prompt.
Network	Your name and port, discovery, where received files go, Email and FTP relays, nearby FloDees and the address book.

Menus	Reorder, hide, move and group the Floater menu; menu presets.
Privacy/Data	What FloDee sends on its own (only a local-network discovery notice), peer-to-peer on/off.
Help	Safety review, Help and manual, Diagnostics, quick reference, crash safety and legal text.

10. Privacy and your data

FloDee collects no usage analytics and keeps no record of what you do in it. On its own it sends only one thing: a small discovery notice on your local network, so other FloDees nearby can find you — it never leaves your network, and you can switch it off. There is no install count, no license check and no update check on this Linux build. Everything else happens only when you ask: a message you send, a Whois lookup, Check Public IP, an email or FTP transfer through your own servers, or the OBS panel talking to your own OBS.

FloDee is AI-free: no AI models or functions are built in or attached, and it never contacts an AI service. Capture Text (OCR) runs the tesseract program on your own computer.

Location	What is there
<code>~/.config/flodee</code>	All settings (settings.json and one file per feature), layouts, workspaces, snapshots, deskspace list, network identity and contacts, menu presets, the diagnostic log. \$XDG_CONFIG_HOME/flodee if that is set.
<code>~/.config/flodee/secrets.json</code>	The email and FTP passwords, readable only by your user account. Never inside settings.json, so exporting or sharing your settings never carries a password.
<code>~/.local/share/flodee</code>	Notepad notes (plain text) and clipboard-history images.
<code>~/FloDee Deskspace</code> s	Your parked desktop icons (real files, moved — never deleted).
Pictures, Videos	Screenshots and recordings (changeable in Settings > Capture).
Downloads	Files received through the Chat Channel (changeable in Settings > Network).

11. When something does not work

Many features depend on the desktop FloDee runs on. Listing and controlling other programs' windows, global keys, reading the screen and seeing the pointer are things the display server and window manager must allow: X11 desktops allow nearly all of them, Wayland far fewer, and remote-desktop sessions fewer still. FloDee checks and hides what cannot work. To see exactly what your desktop allows, start FloDee from a terminal with the `--caps` option; it lists every capability with the reason for anything missing.

If a feature says a program is missing, install the package it names (see "Programs FloDee uses").

To report a bug, turn on Settings › Help ›  Diagnostics, reproduce the problem, turn it off, and send the log ( View Log › Export... saves a copy). Your typing is never recorded, and the log never leaves your computer unless you send it.

FloDee writes its settings so that a crash or power cut can never leave a half-written file. If settings.json cannot be read at start-up it is kept aside as settings.json.bad-1 and FloDee starts with defaults, telling you where the old file went.