NAME

File::MimeInfo::Applications – Find programs to open a file by mimetype

SYNOPSIS

```
use File::MimeInfo::Magic;
use File::MimeInfo::Applications;

my $file = '/foo/bar';
my $mimetype = mimetype($file)
    || die "Could not find mimetype for $file\n";

my ($default, @other) = mime_applications($mimetype);

if (defined $default) {
    $default->system($file)
}
else {
        # prompt user with choice from @others
        # ...
}
```

DESCRIPTION

This module tries to find applications that can open files with a certain mimetype. This is done in the way suggested by the freedesktop Desktop Entry specification. This module is intended to be compatible with file managers and other applications that implement this specification.

This module depends on File::DesktopEntry being installed.

To use this module effectively you need to have the desktop-file-utils package from freedesktop and run update-desktop-database after installing new .desktop files. See <http://www.freedesktop.org/wiki/Software/desktop–file–utils>.

At the moment of writing this module is compatible with the way Nautilus (Gnome) and with Thunar (XFCE) handle applications for mimetypes. I understand KDE is still working on implementing the freedesktop mime specifications but will follow. At the very least all perl applications using this module are using the same defaults.

EXPORT

All methods are exported by default.

METHODS

mime_applications(MIMETYPE)
> Returns an array of File::DesktopEntry objects. The first is the default application for this mimetype, the rest are applications that say they can handle this mimetype.
>
> If the first result is undefined there is no default application and it is good practice to ask the user which application he wants to use.

mime_applications_all(MIMETYPE)
> Like mime_applications() but also takes into account applications that can open mimetypes from which MIMETYPE inherits. Parent mimetypes tell something about the data format, all code inherits from text/plain for example.

mime_applications_set_default(MIMETYPE, APPLICATION)
> Save a default application for this mimetype. This action will affect other applications using the same mechanism to find a default application.
>
> APPLICATION can either be a File::DesktopEntry object or the basename of a .desktop file.

mime_applications_set_custom(MIMETYPE, COMMAND)
> Save a custom shell command as default application. Generates a DesktopEntry file on the fly and calls `mime_applications_set_custom`. Returns the DesktopEntry object.
>
> No checks are done at all on COMMAND. It should however contain at least one word.

NOTES

This module looks for associations files in the order specified in version 1.0 of the MIME applications specification. It will also attempt a last-resort fallback to the legacy file *$XDG_DATA_HOME/applications/defaults.list*. In all cases, it will only write to the recommended per-user defaults file located at *$XDG_CONFIG_HOME/mimeapps.list*.

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SEE ALSO

File::DesktopEntry, File::MimeInfo, File::MimeInfo::Magic, File::BaseDir

<http://freedesktop.org/wiki/Software/desktop−file−utils/>
<http://freedesktop.org/wiki/Specifications/mime−apps−spec/>