Configuring Element Desktop

Element Desktop is a Matrix client for desktop platforms with Element Web at its core.

You can download Element Desktop for Mac, Linux or Windows from the Element downloads page.

See https://web-docs.element.dev/ for the Element Web and Desktop documentation.

Aligning Element Desktop with your ESS deployed Element Web

By default, Element Desktop will be configured to point to the Matrix.org homeserver, however this is configurable by supplying a User Specified `config.json`.

As Element Desktop is mainly Element Web, but packaged as a Desktop application, this `config.json` is identical to the `config.json` ESS will configure and deploy for you at `https://<element_web_fqdn>/config.json`, so it is recommended to setup Element Desktop using that file directly.

How you do this will depend on your specific environment, but you will need to ensure the `config.json` is placed in the correct location to be used by Element Desktop.

- `%APPDATA%\$NAME\config.json` on Windows
- `$XDG_CONFIG_HOME/$NAME/config.json` or `~/.config/$NAME/config.json` on Linux
- `~/Library/Application Support/$NAME/config.json` on macOS

In the paths above, `$NAME` is typically Element, unless you use `--profile $PROFILE` in which case it becomes `Element-$PROFILE`.

Customising your desktop configuration

You may wish to further customise Element Desktop, if the changes you wish to make should not also apply to your ESS deployed Element Web, you will need to add them in addition to your existing `config.json`.

You can find Desktop specific configuration options, or just customise using any options from the Element Web Config docs.

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