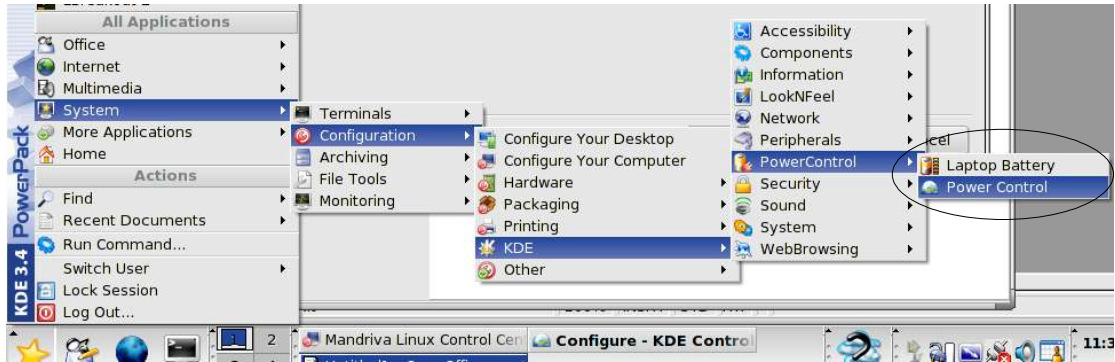


## Managing Power on Laptops

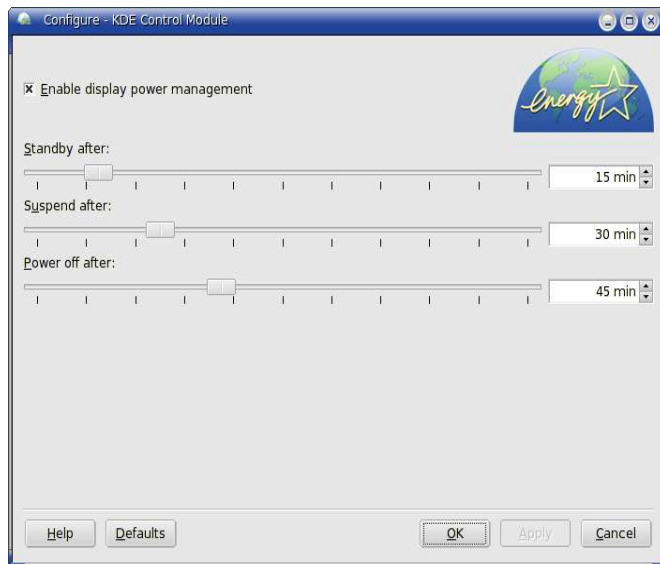
One of the most important things a laptop user can do after installing Mandriva is to set up the power controls on his/her computer. There are several packages necessary to do this: cpufreqd, and acpi or apm. Since I use KDE on Mandriva, I also have kdeutils-laptop set up as well.

There are two ways to get to the control center for this, either by typing “kcontrol” from the command line, or by going through the menus as shown below. You'll be using both “Laptop Battery” and “Power Control”.



### POWER CONTROL:

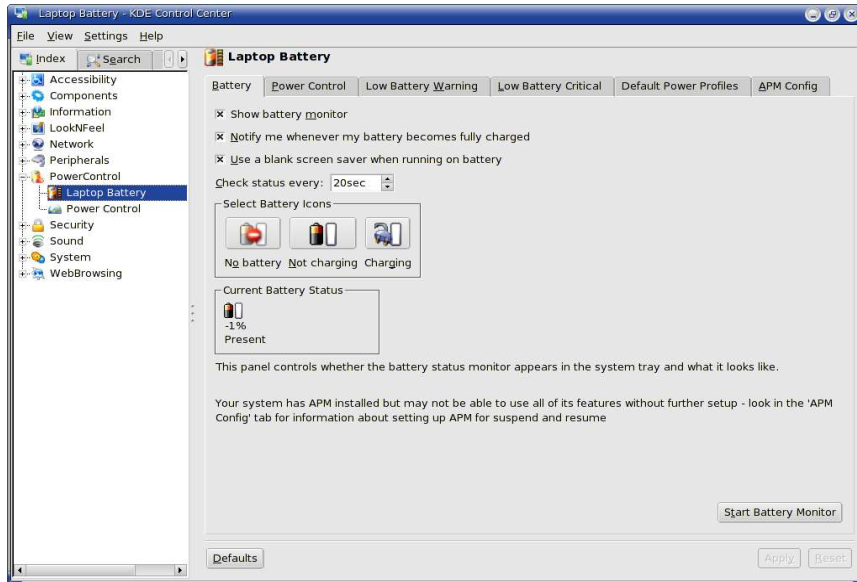
This portion controls the monitor's power management portion. You can see the portions that can be manipulated using this applet. Again, be sure you do have a power management daemon installed on your computer.



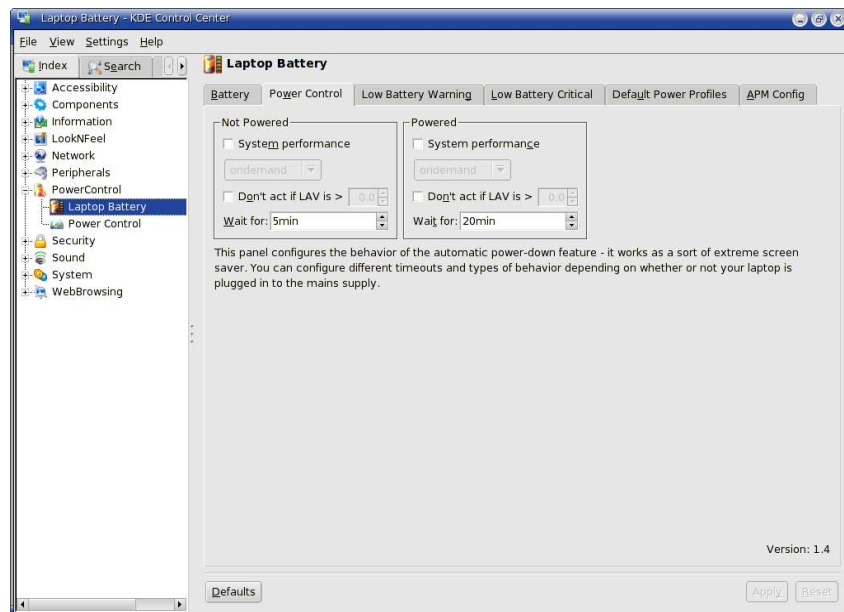
## LAPTOP BATTERY:

In this demonstration, I accessed this applet by typing “kcontrol” in the command line. It keeps all the other KDE tools in view while trying to work in one.

In the first screenshot, you will find my own settings for use while running on battery power. You will probably also wonder about the status: I had to replace my battery and at the time had no battery in the compartment.

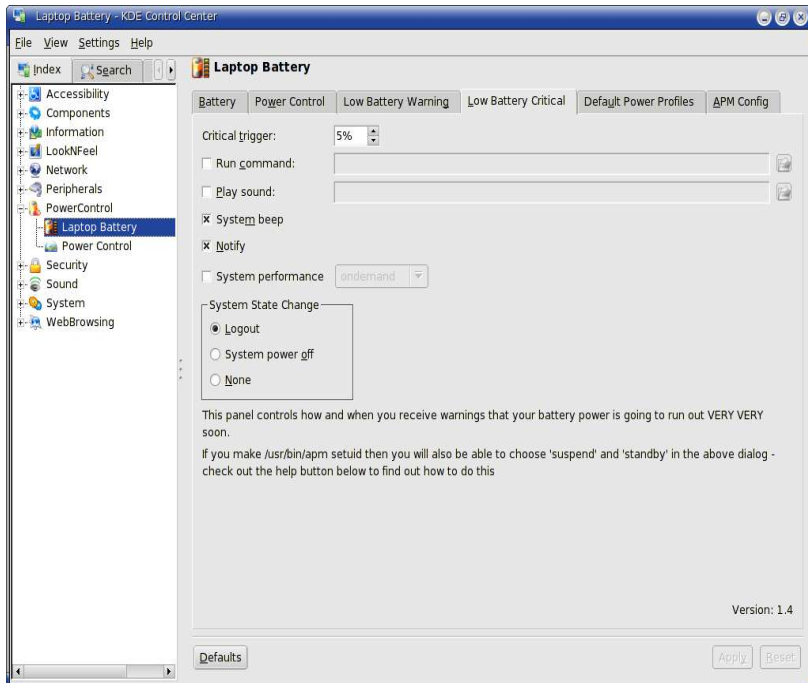
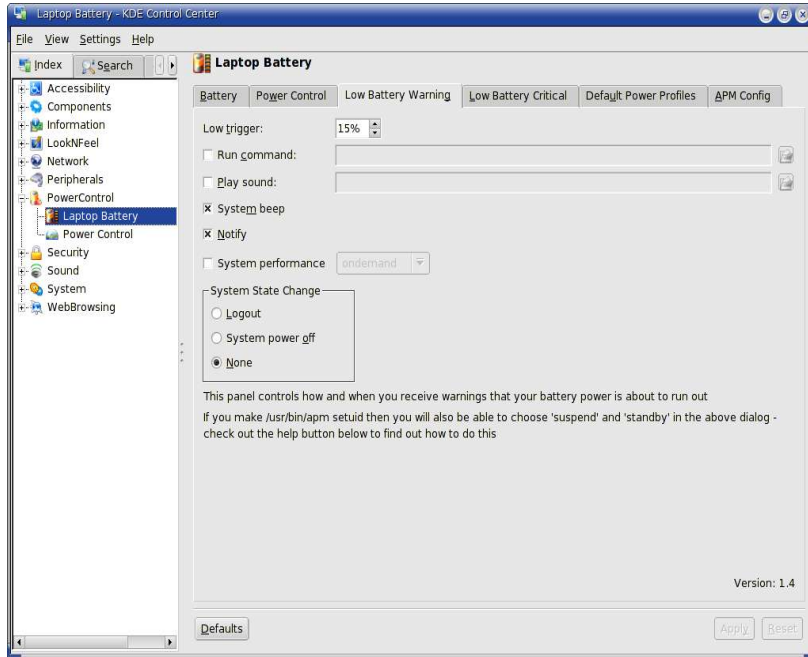


In the **Power Control** tab, you'll find the options for power down in case your laptop is idle for a time. I don't use this personally since I personally find it irritating to have to turn everything back on after fixing a pot of coffee.



The **Low Battery Warning** and the **Low Battery Critical** are perhaps one of the most important things to remember, especially if you don't want to lose your work! Imagine the battery running out after you are *that* close to finish typing the last five pages of a proposal, you've been too focused to save (save early, save often, eh?), and the battery gasps its last breath. Yuck!!!

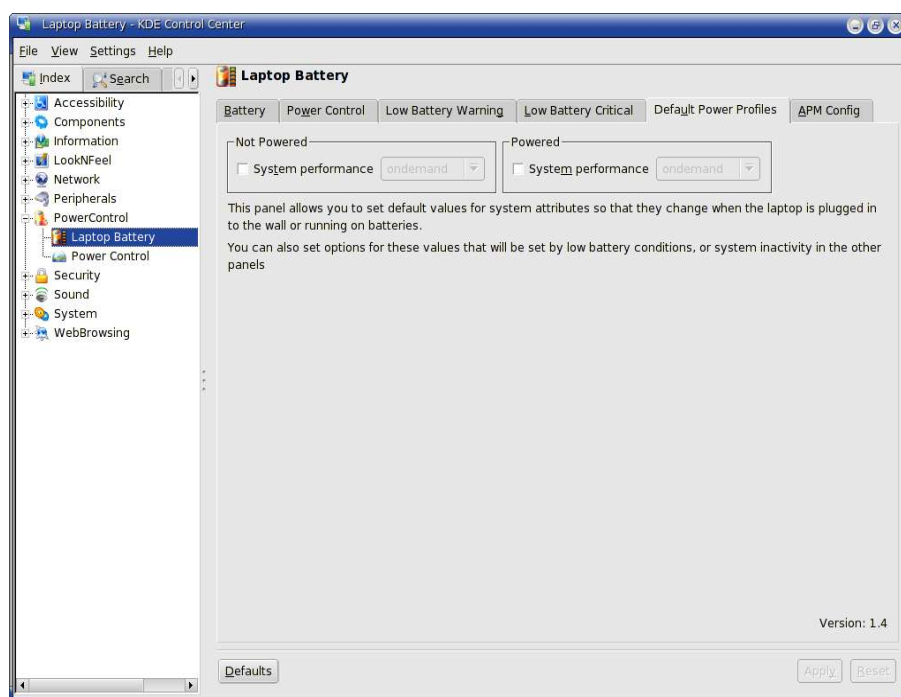
Set the following two tabs as you see fit. Just remember that the older your battery, the faster the last percentages will fly by.



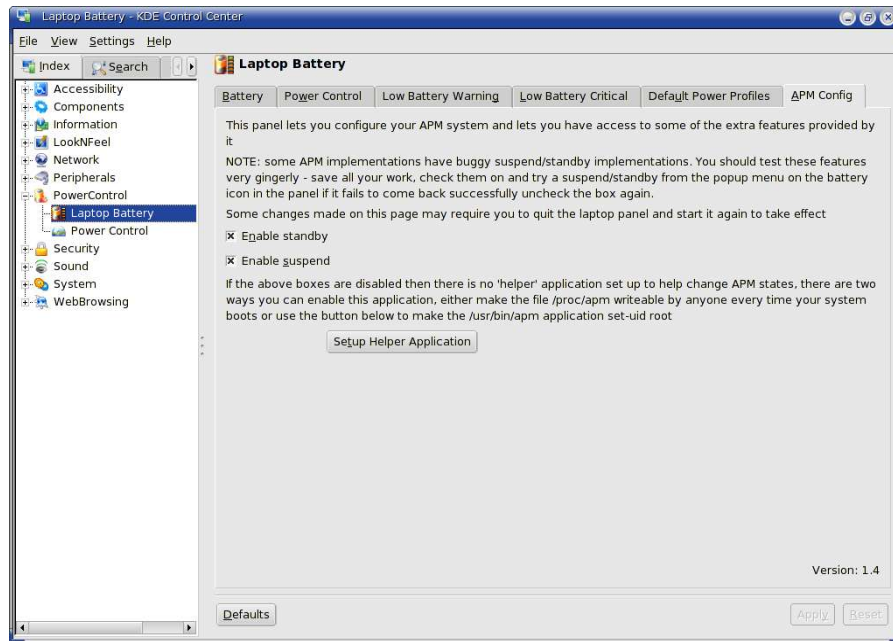
The **Default Power Profiles** tab sets up the speed of your processor. Usually, you'll want to choke back the speed to save battery power since most business work really doesn't need that much power.

There are five options in the drop-down once you've selected the **System Performance** checkbox in either "Not powered" or "Powered", or both: ondemand, conservative, powersave, userspace, and performance. I was only able to glean a little information on these settings (cpufreq governors). "ondemand" throttles back the cpu to some percentage of the total cpu speed, but it will ramp the speed back up when it is needed by some application. "conservative" appears to be a lower cpu speed, and it stays there. "powersave" appears to be the lowest cpu speed setting. "userspace" seems to allow the user to decide exactly what speed to use. "performance" appears to allow the entire potential of the cpu speed. Please let me know if I am incorrect on these.

When I finally decided on my options, I used "powersave" under "Not Powered" and left it at that.



The final tab, **APM Config**, gives you the options for enabling standby and suspend. Please, please, please notice their notice above the option checkboxes, and use this at your own peril.



I hope this helps some of you using Mandriva on your laptop. If you have more you'd like to share, please share it in the Linux Noob Mandrake forum.