

## Using the BBO Windows client without using Windows

Any of you who have moved from Windows to Linux, or who use an *Intel-based* Apple computer, and who were used to the Windows ('downloadable', or just 'old') client for BBO, may be a little dismayed to find that you're now supposedly stuck with the browser-based, or Flash, client. This isn't the case, despite what BBO's support people might suggest. :)

If you like the browser client, then good luck to you, and read no further.

If, like me, you find the browser client extremely distracting, then this is how to get the Windows client running on Linux. For Apple users, I have to say that I know next to nothing about Apple systems, but I *do* know that the Apple operating systems are actually Linux with Apple's own graphical interface (plus a few other modifications) on top.

I actually run Debian Linux, so while I'm willing to try to help any of Oliver's adherents out, I can't reproduce your environments unless you happen to be running Debian Wheezy – but having said that, Debian is the parent of a lot of other Linux distros, so instructions for Debian should work for the Ubuntu family, Linux Mint, and probably a few others.

***I'm not offering to provide general Linux support.*** There are 101 places you can go for that. However, if you've given it your genuine best try to follow these instructions, and still can't get the Windows client to work under Linux, then you can e-mail me at [bboclient@meadows.pair.com](mailto:bboclient@meadows.pair.com) and I will do my best to help you out.

### What you will need to do first

You need to know how to install packages for your Linux distro. There are two main ways of doing this from the command line, one is to use apt-get for the Debian family, or the RedHat family use rpm. Alternatively, there are a bunch of graphical packages, the best of which (IMO!) is synaptic.

You need to download the Windows BBO client, last seen at [http://www.bridgebase.com/intro/installation\\_guide\\_for\\_bbo.php](http://www.bridgebase.com/intro/installation_guide_for_bbo.php)

You need a copy of the Symbol font, symbol.ttf – this **may** already be installed, it depends on the particular distro that you're using.

You need to have installed WINE, the set of libraries which allows many Windows programs to run under Linux. I would always use the version of WINE that's available in your distro's repositories if you have a choice, but if there isn't one, for whatever reason, and you don't want to switch to a distro with decent repositories, then you might manage to download and install a version from <http://www.winehq.org>

Once you've got WINE setup, then use whatever font utility you like to make sure that you have symbol.ttf installed (I use fontmatrix, but it's a matter of personal preference).

Now run up a terminal, cd to the directory where you put bbo\_setup.exe, and from the command prompt, type

```
wine bbo_setup.exe
```

WINE will have a quick think while it sets up things (assuming you're not running any other applications under WINE) and then you'll see the standard BBO setup dialog. Just accept all the defaults. You can delete bbo\_setup.exe once this has completed, if you wish.

Now we need to put a copy of symbol.ttf in the WINE fonts directory. That directory is

```
~/ .wine/drive_c/windows/Fonts
```

Next thing, we have to tweak the bbover.ini file. You should find this file in

```
~/ .wine/drive_c/Bridge Base Online
```

Assuming you're new to Linux - '~' is the standard notation for 'whatever your home directory might be', which on any standard Linux system will be /home/<your user name>. Don't forget that you have to wrap the path in quotes because of the embedded spaces!

Now if you look at the contents of bbover.ini – that's `cat bbover.ini` if you're not familiar with the Linux command line yet – you should see the following three lines in there, after some network information

```
[SYSTEM]
LINUX_WINE=N
BROWSER_TYPE=C
```

Using the ***text editor*** of your choice (***not*** a word processor, I use joe, a clone of the old Wordstar editor) you need to change =N to =Y and =C to =E (Y and N are self-explanatory, I think the E stands for 'external', I have no idea what the 'C' stands for).

And that's it! You should find that the installation process has created a link to the BBO client on your desktop, and you just need to run that in the usual manner. You may well wish to tweak the settings in the client (as it comes up under Linux, it's a bit hard on the eye, at least IMO), but that's a matter of personal choice.

If you want to edit an FD Convention card under Linux, then you need to run bidedit.exe as a stand-alone program. Run up your terminal again, cd to ~/.wine/drive\_c/Bridge Base Online, and type

wine bidedit.exe

Be warned that I haven't found this to be especially stable – if you're editing an FD CC, I would be careful to save my work every 5-10 minutes!

Any corrections/comments on the above welcome – send them to the same address I gave above, please.

Brian.  
(last edited Feb 1st 2013).