

# Running an ApplImage

If you try to run an ApplImage with the usual `./application-name` invocation, you'll find that they won't run. This is because the ApplImage runtime expects some files to exist in a global location that NixOS doesn't put there.

In practice, this is usually not a problem - in *most* cases, you can use `appimage-run` to run an ApplImage on NixOS. `appimage-run` is a tool that creates a virtual environment with all the stuff that an ApplImage expects to be there, and then runs it within that environment for you.

To run an ApplImage called `application-name`, you should ensure that `appimage-run` is installed into your environment (eg. by adding it to your `systemPackages`), and then run:

```
appimage-run ./application-name
```

In some cases, this doesn't work either. That usually happens when the ApplImage expects some additional library to exist on the system, but the `appimage-run` environment doesn't have it. On most Linux distributions, this would be fixed by installing the library it wants, but on NixOS that's a little more complicated. This guide doesn't currently cover that case (yet), and for now I would recommend to try another approach in this chapter instead.

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