

Introducing Xfce 4.4

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Rencontres Mondiales du Logiciel Libre

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 - For the user
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History

December 1996 Start of the work

- Olivier started playing with XForms designer to build a simple launcher for `fvwm`

1997 Xfce 2.0

- Includes a window manager and more configurability

1999 Xfce 3.0

- Totally rewritten using GTK+ 1.2

September 2004 Xfce 4.0

- Complete rewrite, new architecture
- Conformance to freedesktop.org standards
- GTK+ 2.0 based



History

January 2005 Xfce 4.2

- Numerous improvements
- New modules added (xfce4-appfinder, xfce4-menueditor, ...)
- Targets GTK+ 2.2

??? 2006 Xfce 4.4

- Thunar
- Desktop icons
- New panel (replacing taskbar as well)
- Targets GTK+ 2.6
- ...



Goals

Keep the desktop :

- Lightweight when possible
- Fast
- Simple and easy to use
- Modular
- Compliant with standards



Components

- Panel (xfce4-panel)
- Desktop (xfdesktop)
- Settings manager (xfce-mcs-manager)
- Settings plugins (xfce-mcs-plugins)
- Window manager (xfwm4)
- Session manager (xfce4-session)
- File manager (Thunar, xffm)



Xfce 4.4 - Panel

- Completely rewritten (plugins have to be rewritten too)
- Supports internal and external plugins
- Multiple panels
- Multiscreen support
- A taskbar plugin replaces xftaskbar4



Xfce 4.4 - Desktop

- Windows icons (like Xfce 3)
- Basic support for desktop icons (using Thunar libraries)



Xfce 4.4 - Window manager

- New *Window Manager Tweaks* mcs plugin
- Optimised compositor (can activated/deactivated on the fly)
- Command shortcuts have been moved into the keyboard mcs plugin (supporting an “unlimited” number of shortcuts)



Xfce 4.4 - Others

- No more dependency on a2ps, it is detected when starting xfprint
- *Preferred application* mcs plugin
- Bug fixes
- ...



Xfce 4.4 - libxfcegui4

- New classes (XfceHeading, XfceTitledDialog, ...)
- Old classes now directly supported by GTK+ 2.6 became simple wrappers (XfcelconTheme, XfceFileChooser, ...)



Xfce 4.4 - libxfprint

- Eases the xfprint backend development
- Allows modifications of the GUI using GtkUIManager



Xfce 4.4 - libexo

- Written by Benedikt Meurer (benny@xfce.org)
- Very clean and easy to use/understand
- Targets application development
- Provides support for editable toolbars, additional widgets, some extensions to `gdk-pixbuf`, `GObject`, `Gtk` and `Pango` as well as some utility functions (`md5`, `xsession`, ...)
- Used (at least) by `Thunar`, `Terminal`, `Xfmedia` and `Xfburn`



Xfce 4.4 - Bindings

- Perl bindings
- Python bindings



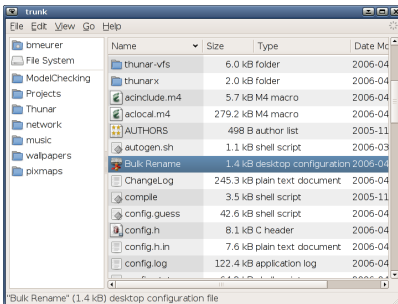
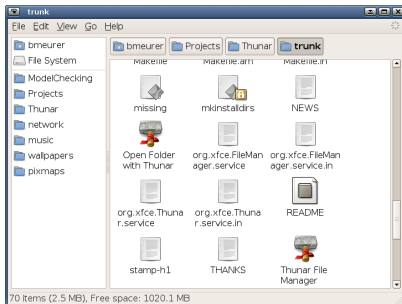
Thunar

- Written by Benedikt Meurer (benny@xfce.org)
- Designed to be fast and easy-to-use
- Fully standards compliant
- Plugin system allows adding features without overhead
- Detects automounted devices through HAL
- Uses Gamin or Fam to monitor files



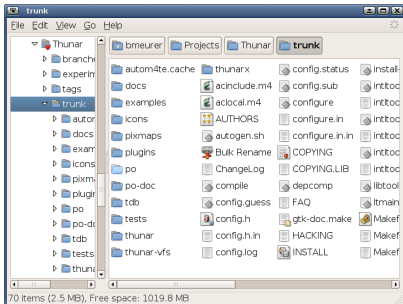
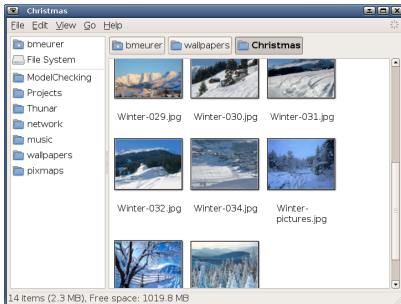
Thunar - classic views

Thunar implements standard views like the icon list view, the list view and the detailed list view



Thunar - advanced views

It also provides image/video thumbnailing using gnome libraries (optional) and a tree pane



The future

- More applications targeting Xfce environment (Xarchiver, Xfburn, ...)
- New settings manager (D-BUS ?)
- Thunar handling desktop icons
- New web site for the Xfce 4.4 release (www-test.xfce.org)
- ...



Get involved

You can help us by:

- Sending patches, suggesting features or discussing changes (bugzilla.xfce.org and xfce4-dev@xfce.org)
- Developing Panel/Thunar plugins (goodies.xfce.org and goodies-dev@xfce.org)
- Translating Xfce components (i18n.xfce.org and xfce-i18n@xfce.org)
- Reporting bugs (bugzilla.xfce.org)
- Helping/guiding people on our IRC channel (#xfce on freenode) or on the users mailing list (xfce@xfce.org)



Questions

Thank you for your attention

Do you have any questions ?

The slides are available on <http://www.xfce.org/pollux/rml06.pdf>