State of the Shell

Carlos Garnacho Florian Müllner Georges Stavracas Jonas Ådahl Jonas Dreßler





Input





ClutterSeat

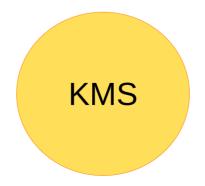
- First step towards input handling refactors
- Owner of devices
- Source of events







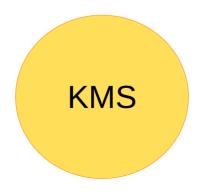




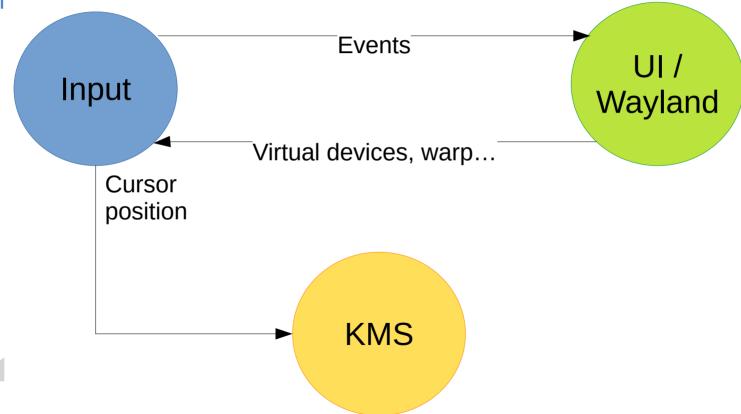






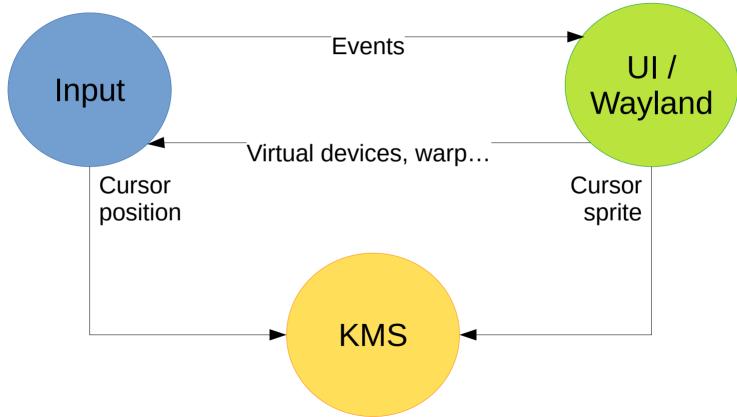
















Potential Benefits

- No missed libinput events
- No blocked pointer cursor
- Better handling of high frequency devices
- Reuse of cursor plane (eg. for tablets)





Touch Mode

- Global toggle for touch-only features
 - Onscreen Keyboard
 - Rotation lock
 - •





Frame Clock





History

- Clutter was originally an application toolkit
 - Each stage draws to a single window
 - A single frame clock driving all the stages
- Worked fine as a X11 compositing window manager
 - Compositing to a single window
 - Not much different from being an X11 application





History

- Enter Wayland and the native backend
 - Quite different from being an application
 - Piece by piece looked less like an application toolkit...
 - ... and more like a compositor toolkit
 - Split up stage into per logical monitor "views"
 - Later split up those up even further into per CRTC
 - Lots of other changes





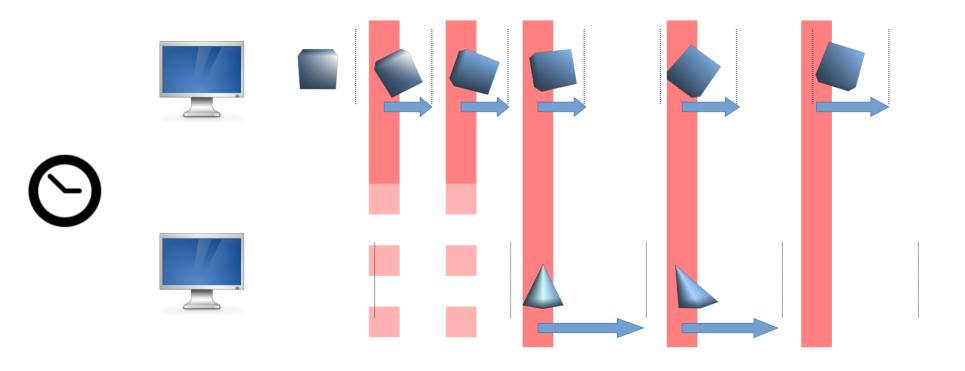
Single Clock Head Aches

- Still using a single frame clock causing issues
 - A monitor is driven by a clock on the GPU that updates at a fixed interval (unless VRR)
 - Multiple monitors clocks not necessarily in sync
 - Different monitors cause the clocks to tick at different speed (60 Hz vs 144 Hz)





Single Frame Clock



Bring out the scissor

- Single frame clock standing in the way for progress
- Monitors waiting for each other to update
- Complicated scheduling mechanisms trying to juggle different clocks and capabilities
- Lets split it up!





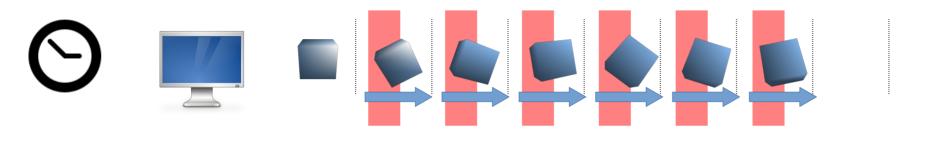
Enter ClutterFrameClock

- Each monitor already represented by a dedicated view on the stage
- Each view gets its own frame clock
- Each frame clock schedules frame for a single monitor



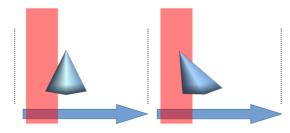


Multiple Frame Clocks









... but that's not enough

- Mutter is not only a compositing toolkit, it's also a compositor GUI toolkit
 - Highly capable animation framework
 - Used extensively by GNOME Shell
 - Assumed a single clock





Making a Connection

- Each animation in some way tied to an actor
- Each actor tied to a set of stage views
- Each stage view has a clock
- Voilà



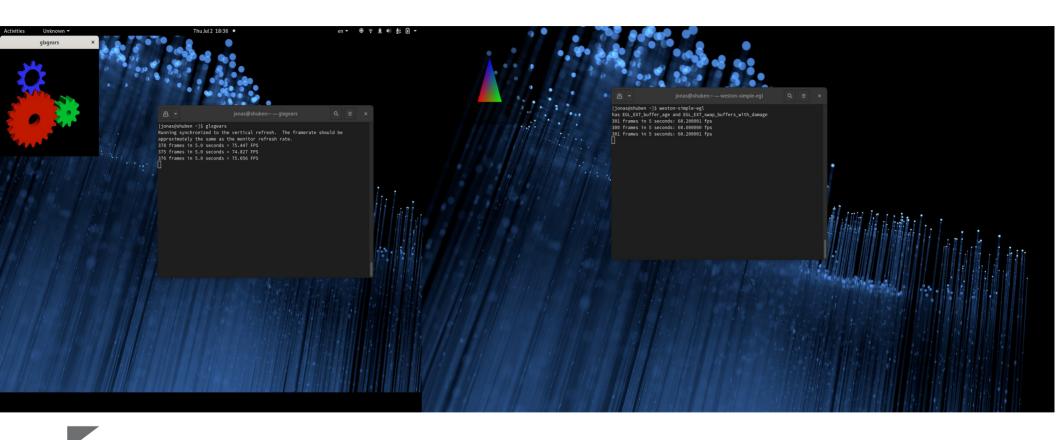


Multi-clock GNOME Shell

- GNOME Shell almost completely wraps actor animations as "ease" prototype functions and using St.Adjustment
- Making these handle associating an animation with an actor solved the vast majority of multi clock animations transparently
- Very small changes needed to GNOME Shell JavaScript code, likely the same for most extensions









Layout Machinery





Layout Machinery

- Introduced shallow relayout mechanism (thanks to Daniel)
- Various bugfixes
- Removed ClutterAllocationFlags, which allowed adding an optimization
- Stricter enforcing of Clutters invariants regarding mapped state





DMA-Buf Screencast





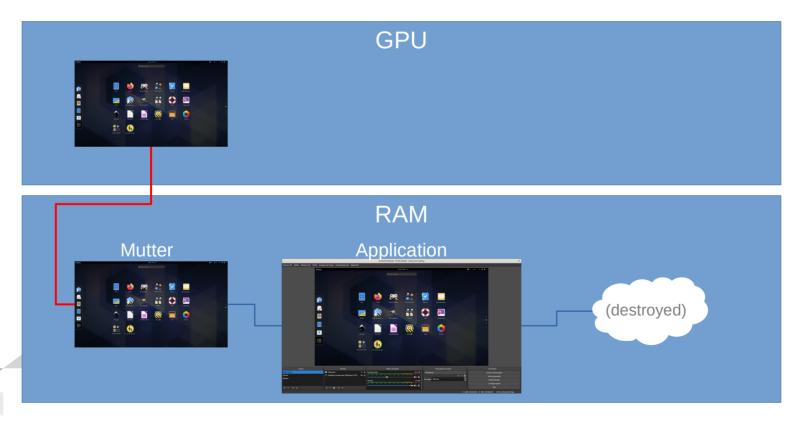
DMA-Buf Screencast

- Avoids downloading buffers from GPU memory to RAM
- Lighter mainloop after rendering
- Smoother screencasting and screensharing experience
- GNOME Shell's built-in recorder now using it too



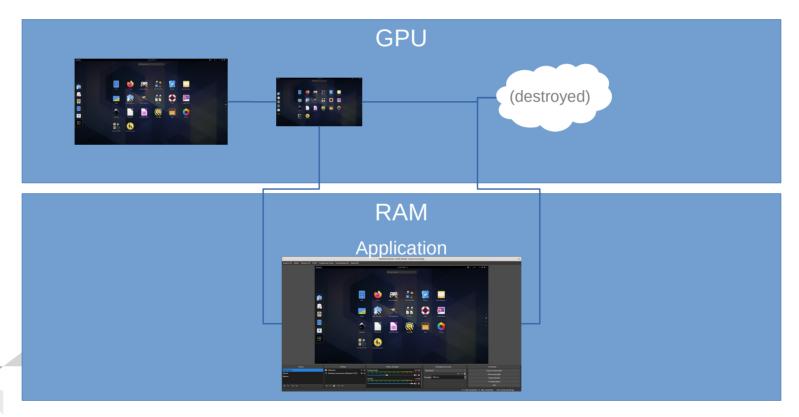


DMA-Buf Screencast





DMA-Buf Screencast





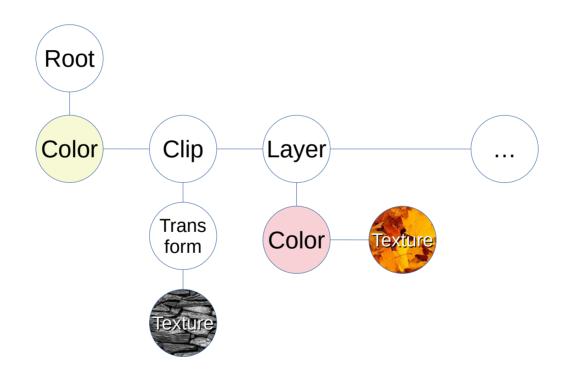




- Also known as: Clutter 2.0
- 2-step rendering process:
 - 1. Collect paint nodes
 - 2. Recursively paint











- ClutterEffect fully ported
 - Offscreen effects
 - Shell's unlock screen blur effect
- Next steps:
 - Profiling of subtrees
 - Port GNOME Shell entirely





New Lock Screen







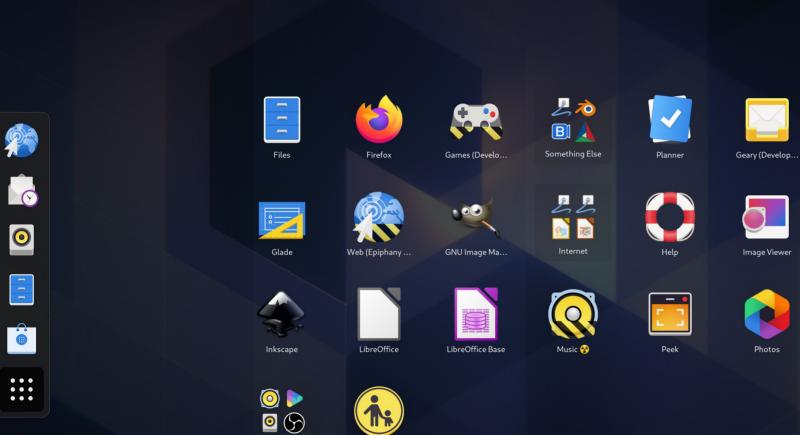




Customizable App Grid







Parental Controls

Unnamed Folder

Dialog Redesign





Dialog Redesign

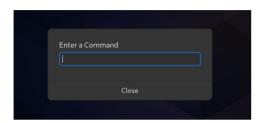
- System dialogs were inconsistent
- Open issue on Gitlab about redoing them
- Design Team did mockups for every dialog (thanks!)
- Landed in GNOME 3.36





Old

New



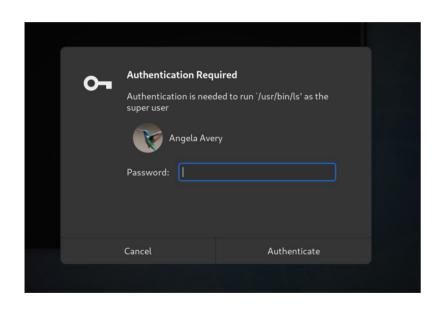


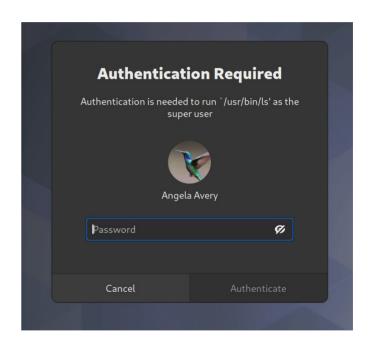






Old







Workspaces





Workspaces

- Window overlays were positioned statically
- Lead to a few "interesting" bugs with the window titles
- Now positioned using ClutterConstraints (bugs are hopefully gone)





Workspaces

- Window in the overview were also positioned statically
- Quite complicated and old code
- Now positioned using a ClutterLayoutManager
- More separated code, parts of it can be reused elsewhere

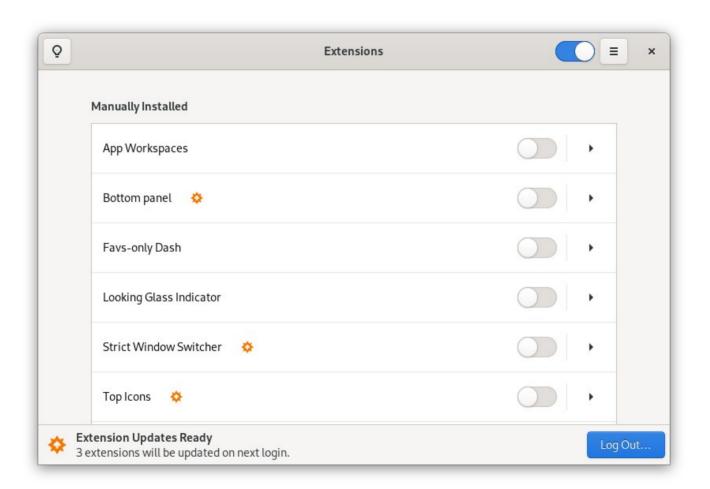




Extensions









Extensions

- Built-in updates support
- "New" Extensions app
- New CLI tool
- Available in GNOME 3.36

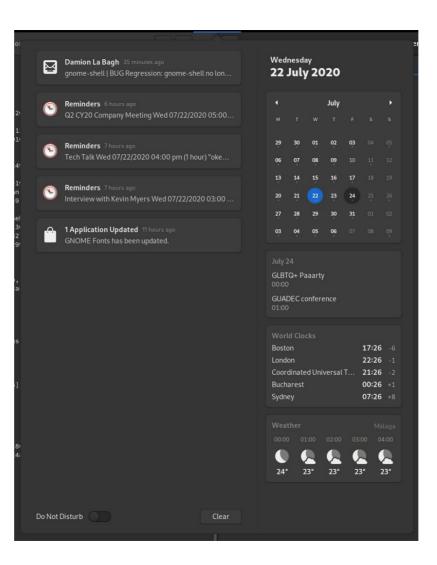




Calendar Drop-down









Calendar Drop-down

- Calendar backend improvements (thanks Milan!)
- Separate Events section
- Refined Weather section
- More to come (Hi Mariana!)

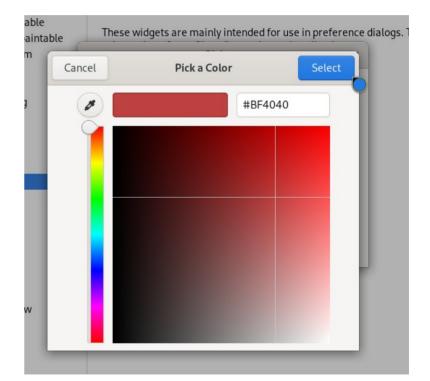




... there's more

- Systemd user session improvements
- Parental Controls support
- Color Picker previews

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Q&A



We Have a Blog!

- blogs.gnome.org/shell-dev/
- Fresh news directly from those who make it!
 - Monthly development summaries
 - Extension developers can benefit from reading it
 - Read, share, and follow!





Thank You!



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