

Gnomogram IN WITH THE NEW

This month
Gnomogram takes a
look at Fidelio,
Firewall Builder and
porting programs to
GNOME 2

GNOME-Foundation Elections

Somewhat later than expected, the results of the second GNOME Foundation Elections have now been confirmed. Since the majority of professional GNOME developers work either at Ximian or at Red Hat, this year a special clause was brought in, according to which not more than four directors can be employed at the same company. As such James Henstridge and George Lebl have been promoted instead of Michael Meeks.

The founder of the Free Software Foundation, Richard M. Stallman (known as RMS), whose self-nomination attracted a great deal of attention, was

not elected. He has been known to put forward some very extreme views regarding Free software.

Also on board again, of course, are Miguel de Icaza and Federico Mena-Quintero – the two founders of the Project – together with some other old acquaintances.

In addition to diverse legal questions, which remain unanswered, the new GNOME Foundation Board must now also clarify the details of the next GUADEC (Gnome User And Developer European Conference), which is planned to take place in Seville this April.

Porting assistance for GNOME 2

The release of GNOME 2 represents more of a change for programmers than it does for users, as the platform – now available in beta – comes with incompatible API modifications. To give developers the opportunity to benefit from the new platform, there are some guidelines at <http://www.gnome.org> and a set of documentation for the GTK2-APIs.

Anyone who has relied on Glade when developing his or her program may in future be able to save themselves some of this labour, since it will be possible to convert old Glade files.

GNOME 2 is, however, more than just the platform

– all programs are intended to share a common look and feel. Anyone who ports their program onto GNOME 2 should therefore take a look at the Human Interface Guidelines. For example, GNOME 2 programs should

display the Cancel button to the left of the Go button (such as Save). If this rule is consistently implemented, it will increase the user's productivity.

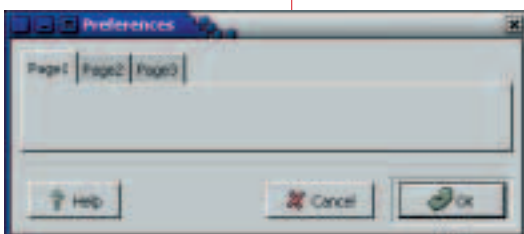
Ximian Connector

When Evolution 1.0 was launched, Ximian announced a new program for 2002 called Connector, which makes Evolution in to a full value exchange client. Unlike Evolution, Connector is being distributed under a proprietary licence for US\$ 69. Contrary to some other fears expressed, though, Evolution itself remains free in the sense of the GPL.

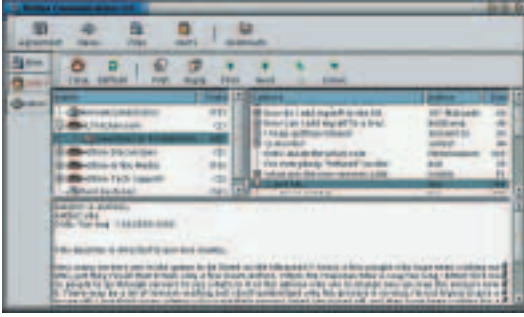
Fidelio

Fidelio is a GNOME client for Hotline, a system which is strongly reminiscent of old mailboxes. The program lets the user upload to and download from a hotline server, as in the case of FTP files; as well as reading and replying to messages in a similar way to Usenet News.

Just as with old mailboxes, there is no large central hotline server, but lots of small ones, which exist independently of each other. The advantage of this is that the server can continue to exist independently of the truly punch-drunk company Hotline Communications. On the other hand, it's relatively hard to find one's way about in the many servers. To get an overview, there are "Trackers", which maintain the latest server lists. Since countless trackers exist in addition to the official hotline ones, there are also Tracker-Lists, such as <http://www.tracker-tracker.com>.



An example of a preference dialogue in accordance with the Human Interface Guidelines



In addition to numerous DivX-Animes there are also lots of books on hotline servers

The unofficial trackers not only offer a greater range of server lists than the official one, but they also include numerous sites with legally dubious content. For example, hotline servers are regularly used to distribute the latest DivX movie files.

Although there are many thematically arranged hotline servers, it is often more useful to rely on a search engine such as SADwyw, to find a specific file. Once the user has found it, though, it is not unusual for him or her to have to wait a while first before the – usually very limited bandwidth – server releases the resources. Also, with some servers, users have to apply for an account or upload a few files to the server, before they themselves are allowed to download.

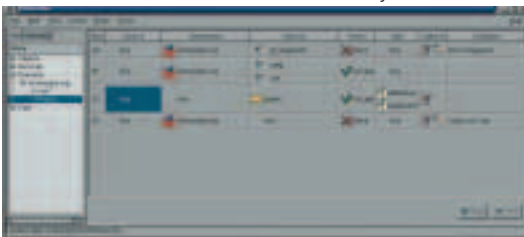
Firewall Builder

With the aid of the Firewall Builder it is possible to use drag and drop tools to create even complicated firewall rules and make them into a script. Firewall Builder gets on very well with both Iptables (Linux 2.4) and with Ip_filters (FreeBSD). Plus, with the aid of an expansion, the program can install policies directly on the one-diskette-firewall Floppyfw.

Firewall Builder manages all hosts, firewalls and services as objects, which can be set out in a tree view. These objects can in turn be combined into groups. So, for example, all services connecting to Kerberos can be handled as one object.

There is no need to enter all hosts by hand; at *Tools/ Discover Objects* the program hostname can be found via SNMP, from a DNS-Zone, or via the file */etc/hosts*. The objects found can later be inserted into the rules. For example all Kerberos services could be allowed on all weekdays only for a specified host.

For standard-configurations Firewall Builder also offers a wizard, which takes the user by the hand



The greatest drawback to Firewall Builder is that the icons are sometimes very ugly

Info

GNOME Foundation homepage: <http://foundation.gnome.org>

Porting to GNOME 2: <http://developer.gnome.org/dotplan/porting>

GNOME API reference: <http://developer.gnome.org/doc/API/>

GNOME 2 Human Interface Guidelines: <http://developer.gnome.org/projects/gup/hig/>
Ximian Connector homepage: http://www.ximian.com/about_us/press_center/press_releases/ximian_connector.html

Hotline Communications homepage: <http://www.bigredh.com>

Tracker-Tracker: Hotline: <http://www.tracker-tracker.com/hotline/>

SADwyw homepage: <http://ac2i.tzo.com/cgi-bin/search>

Firewall Builder homepage: <http://www.fwbuilder.org>

Firewall Builder file list: http://sourceforge.net/project/showfiles.php?group_id=5314

Floppyfw homepage: <http://www.zelow.no/floppyfw/index.html>

MrProject homepage: <http://mrproject.codefactory.se>

during the configuration. The rules can be set to make even finer distinctions via the Interfaces tab of a firewall: in addition to the global rules, you can also do interface-specific installations here. Firewall Builder also supports Network Address Translation (NAT). So IP-Datagrams can be diverted to other hosts or ports.

MrProject

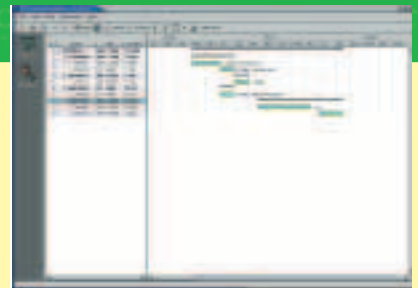
MrProject is, as the name suggests, a project management software, which lies somewhere between the abilities of Evolution and ToutDoux. Since MrProject uses GAL to access the widgets used in Evolution, the interface ought to be familiar to every Evolution user.

All the tasks dealt with by

MrProject can be displayed either in a calendar view or in a GANTT-diagram. The diagram has the advantage that it displays the temporal limits of the individual tasks and subtasks, progress is measured by percentages and dependencies among the tasks are shown.

Dependencies can be created by simply connecting two tasks; if the deadline for the first task is moved, the start time of the second is also moved with it. Furthermore, all dependencies and subtasks can be displayed in a network view, which simply creates a flow chart from the data.

It is also possible to assign tasks to persons or whole groups for processing. The materials necessary for a task can be defined under Resources. Email addresses can be defined for all resources and MrProject can send messages to these addresses with the aid of Evolution. The co-operation between these two programs should progress further in future; one of the planned features is to synchronise the calendar from MrProject with the one from Evolution.



MrProject can assign each task to a group for processing

Libraries required

Fidelio: libxml2

Firewall Builder: libfwbuilder, libxml2 >= 2.4.0, libxslt >= 1.0.0, libgtkmm >= 1.2.3, ucd-snmpp >= 4.2, openssl >= 0.9.6

Mrprojekt: libgal >= 0.11.2, gnome-vfs >= 1.0.0, libxml >= 1.8.14, gnome-print >= 0.25, oaf >= 0.6.5