

XFCE – de lichtgewicht desktop



Erik Wesselius
Bennekom

erik.wesselius@freedom.nl
[@erikwesselius@mastodon.social](https://mastodon.social/@erikwesselius)

Wat is een desktopomgeving

- grafische werkomgeving voor computers
- metafoor van het bureaublad
- (grafische) schil rond het besturingssysteem
- makkelijker in het gebruik dan de command line
- vanaf begin jaren negentig werden grafische desktop omgevingen de standaard
- MSDOS => MS Windows

Historie van de XFCE desktop

- “Project Athena” (1984, MIT)
- X Windows System => XFree86 => X11 => Xorg server (v. 21.1.20)
- Common Desktop Environment (CDE) enige beschikbare desktopomgeving voor Linux
- geen open source
- in 1996 ontwikkelt de Franse programmeur Oliver Fourdan op basis van de XForms grafische toolkit een open source functionele kopie van CDE: XForms Common Environment (XFCE)
- basis voor het huidige XFCE4 (Xforms => GTK grafische toolkit)

Mijn geschiedenis met XFCE

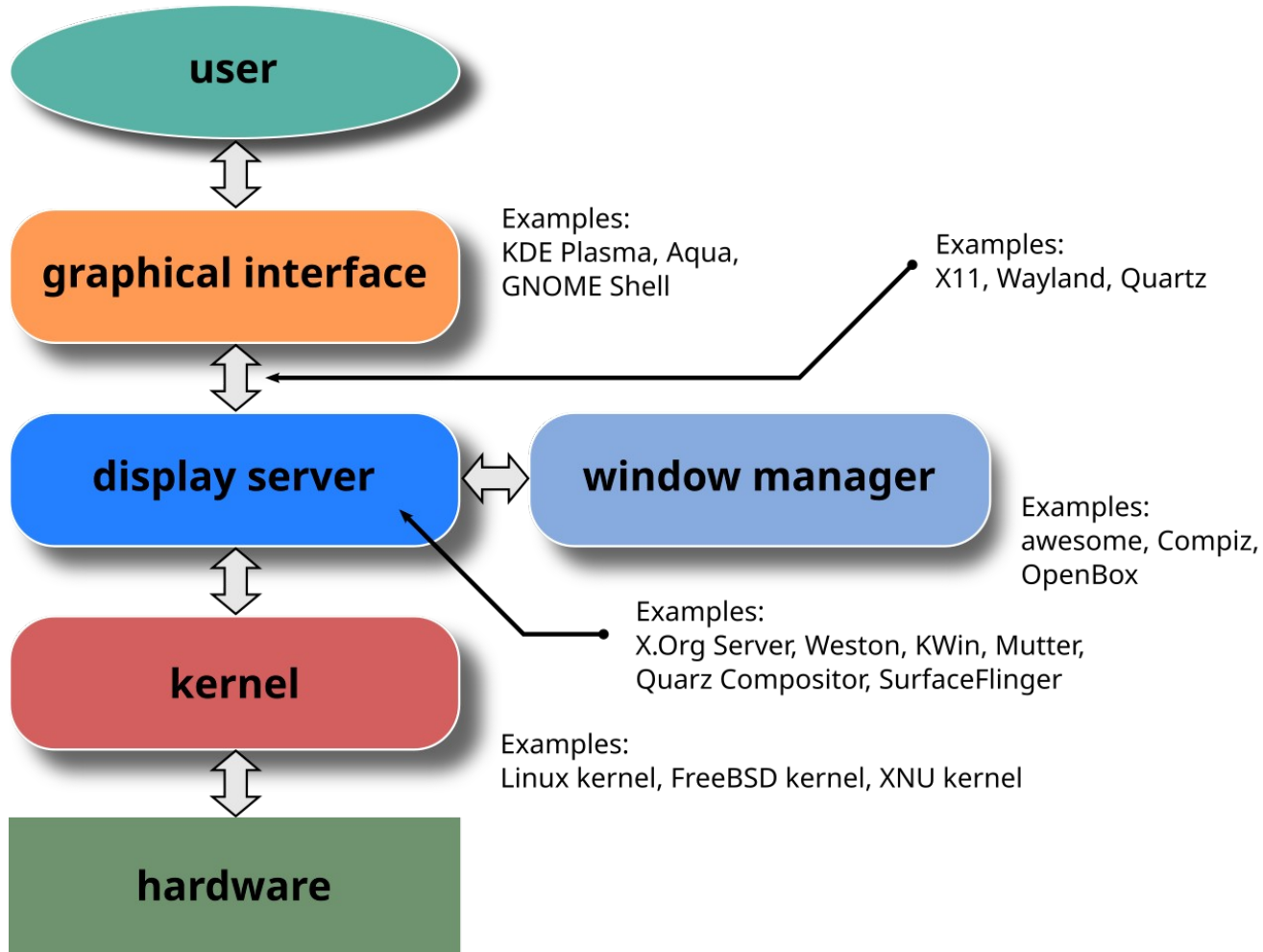
- 2006: Zenwalk
- 2009: Arch Linux
XFCE4 als desktopomgeving
- 2025: Mint Linux (op oude laptop)
Cinnamon vervangen door XFCE4

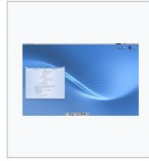


Zenwalk

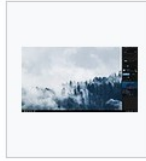


- Franse Linux distributie
- Hobby-project van Jean-Philippe Guillemin (2004)
- Gebaseerd op Slackware ('Minislack')
- XFCE als desktop
- Populair in de mid-jaren nul





Ambient



Budgie



CDE



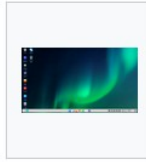
Cinnamon



COSMIC



EDE



Deepin DE



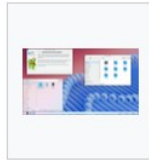
Enlightenment



GNOME Shell



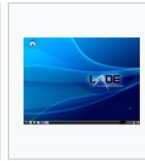
GNUMstep/Window
Maker



KDE Plasma 6



Lumina



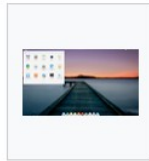
LXDE



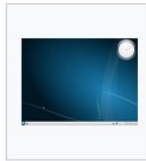
LXQt



MATE



Pantheon



Razor-qt



ROX Desktop



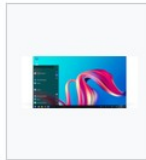
Sugar



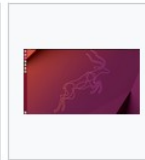
Trinity



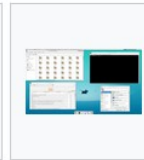
UDE



UKUI (desktop
environment)



Unity



Xfce

Display manager – LXDM

- als je XFCE4 installeert heb je een grafische login manager nodig om een login sessie op de Xorg-server start
- die heb je in soorten en maten: LightDM, SLiM, XDM, LXDM, GDM, SDDM, KDM, Ly
- op mijn Arch linux machine gebruik ik LXDM, de display manager die voor de LXDE desktop ontwikkeld is
- Mint gebruikt standaard LightDM

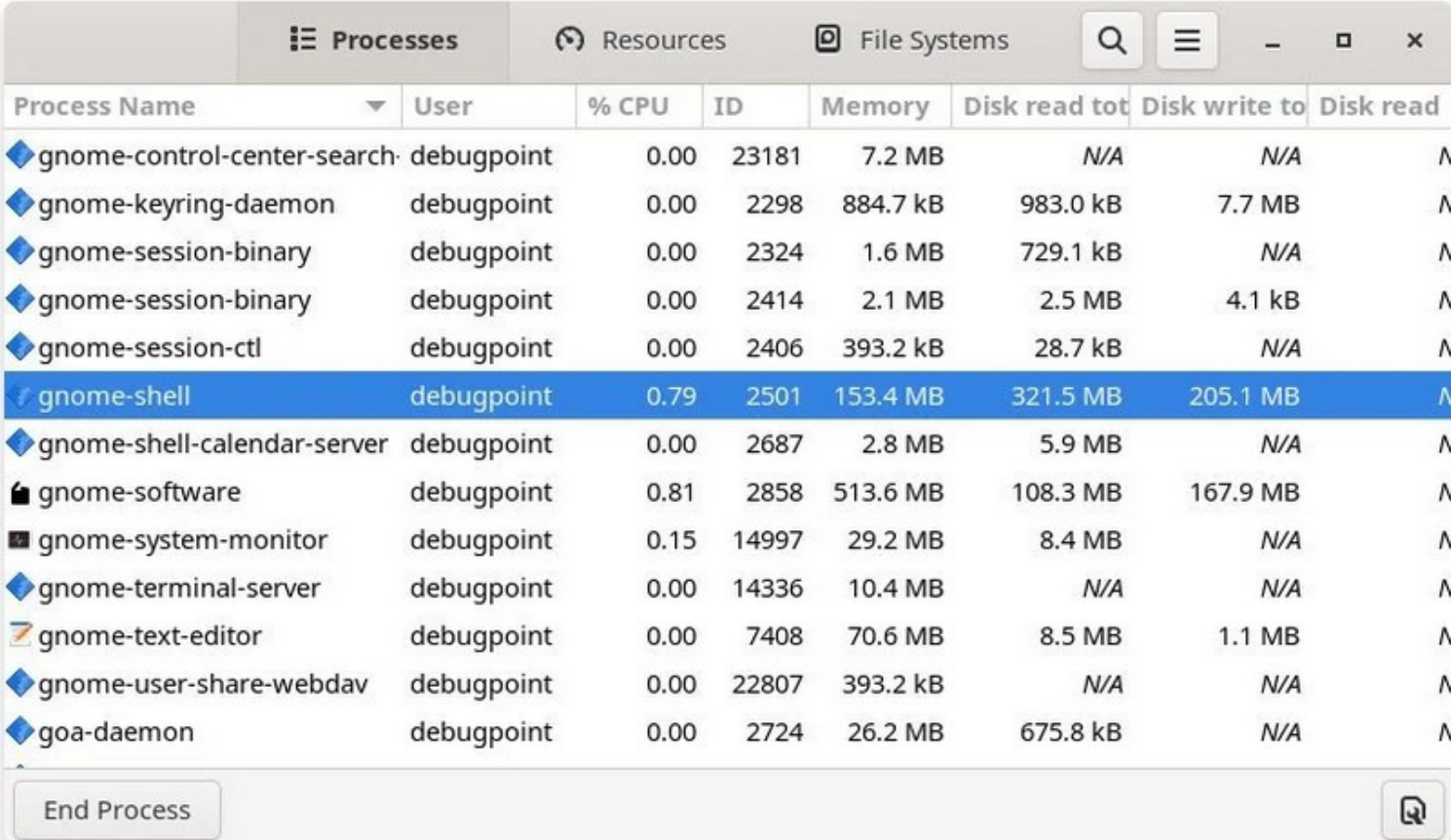
Onderdelen van de desktopomgeving

- Vensterbeheer: in XFCE standaard Xfwm
- GTK3 toolkit en Adwaita thema
- Bestandsbeheer: Thunar
- Terminal: xfce-terminal
- Xfce4-Panel

Een bedachtzame ontwikkelcyclus

- iemand noemde XFCE het “Debian van de desktop-omgevingen”:
- niet de laatste snufjes
- maar XFCE zit solide in elkaar en is grondig getest
- tussen nieuwe versies zitten vaak jaren – tussendoor worden onderdelen wel bijgewerkt
- Wayland ondersteuning in XFCE is nog experimenteel

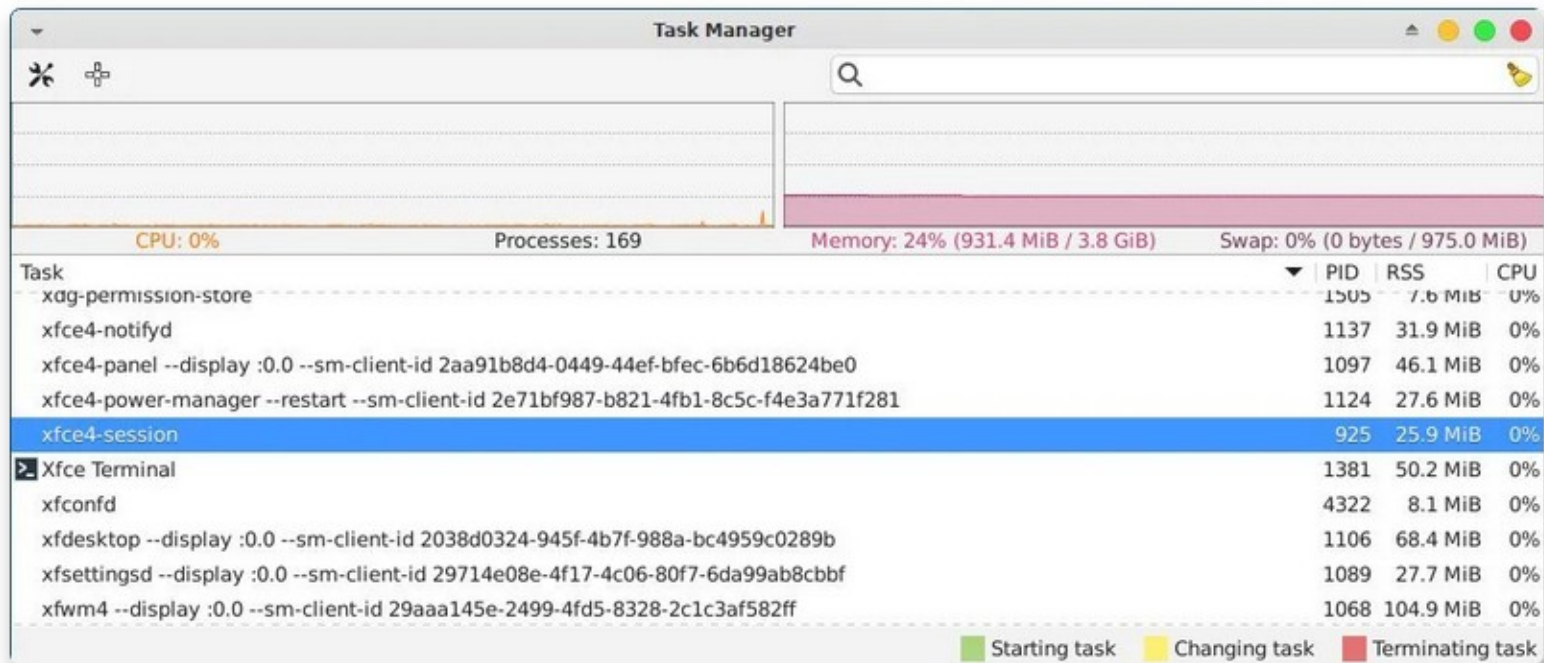
In the Fedora workstation, gnome-session consumes around 150 MB of RAM. With Debian and Xfce, the xfce4-session consumes around 26 MB of RAM.



The screenshot shows the 'Processes' tab of the GNOME System Monitor. The window has a title bar with standard Linux window controls and a search icon. The 'Processes' tab is selected, showing a list of running processes. The 'gnome-shell' process is highlighted in blue, indicating it is the current selection. The table columns are: Process Name, User, % CPU, ID, Memory, Disk read tot, Disk write to, and Disk read. The data shows that 'gnome-shell' is using 0.79% CPU and 153.4 MB of memory. Other processes like 'gnome-software' and 'gnome-terminal-server' are also visible.

Process Name	User	% CPU	ID	Memory	Disk read tot	Disk write to	Disk read
gnome-control-center-search	debugpoint	0.00	23181	7.2 MB	N/A	N/A	N/A
gnome-keyring-daemon	debugpoint	0.00	2298	884.7 kB	983.0 kB	7.7 MB	N/A
gnome-session-binary	debugpoint	0.00	2324	1.6 MB	729.1 kB	N/A	N/A
gnome-session-binary	debugpoint	0.00	2414	2.1 MB	2.5 MB	4.1 kB	N/A
gnome-session-ctl	debugpoint	0.00	2406	393.2 kB	28.7 kB	N/A	N/A
gnome-shell	debugpoint	0.79	2501	153.4 MB	321.5 MB	205.1 MB	N/A
gnome-shell-calendar-server	debugpoint	0.00	2687	2.8 MB	5.9 MB	N/A	N/A
gnome-software	debugpoint	0.81	2858	513.6 MB	108.3 MB	167.9 MB	N/A
gnome-system-monitor	debugpoint	0.15	14997	29.2 MB	8.4 MB	N/A	N/A
gnome-terminal-server	debugpoint	0.00	14336	10.4 MB	N/A	N/A	N/A
gnome-text-editor	debugpoint	0.00	7408	70.6 MB	8.5 MB	1.1 MB	N/A
gnome-user-share-webdav	debugpoint	0.00	22807	393.2 kB	N/A	N/A	N/A
goa-daemon	debugpoint	0.00	2724	26.2 MB	675.8 kB	N/A	N/A

End Process

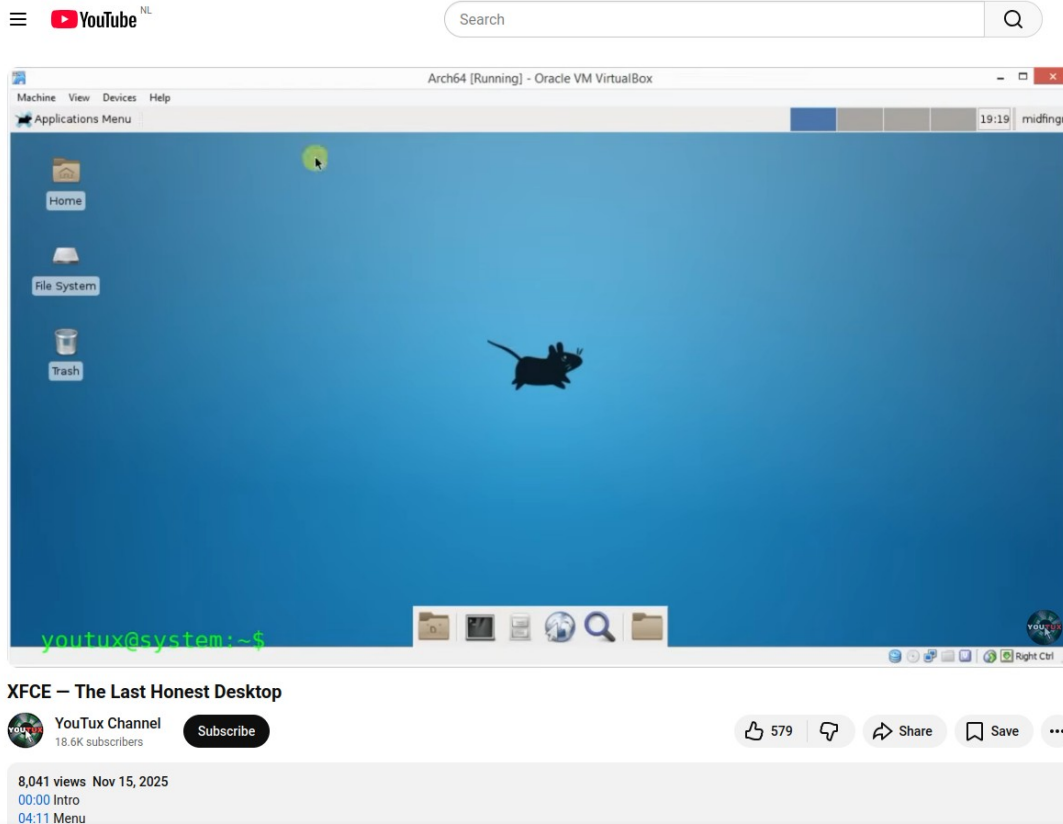


xfce4-session performance

This metric is expected, considering both are built differently.

In Xfce, you can run many applications simultaneously without experiencing performance concerns. However, GNOME might feel a little resource-hungry compared to Xfce due to its new features and support for modern protocols.

Video over XFCE (toevallig op 15 november 2025 gepubliceerd)



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gfm_KHGMzTQ



Erik Wesselius
Bennekom

erik.wesselius@freedom.nl
[@erikwesselius@mastodon.social](https://mstdn.social/@erikwesselius)