

GNOME Display Manager (GDM)

CentOS Documentation SIG

February 5, 2010

Abstract

This article describes the GDM Visual Style for CentOS Distribution. GDM is the first choice defined as CentOS Display Manager (DM). If users leave their computers on all the time and don't share their system, they won't see this as often as users who share a desktop system with other users on the system or laptop users who reboot and login more frequently.

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1 Workplace

- SVN:trunk/Identity/Themes/\$THEME/Distro/BootUp/GDM/
- SVN:trunk/Translations/Identity/Themes/Distro/BootUp/GDM/
- SVN:trunk/Scripts/Identity/Themes/Distro/BootUp/GDM/

2 Theme

Target: /usr/share/gdm/themes/Modern/background.png
Package: **Unknown!**
Description: PNG image data, 1024 x 768, 8-bit/color RGBA, non-interlaced

Target: /usr/share/gdm/themes/Modern/centos-release.png
Package: **Unknown!**
Description: PNG image data, 181 x 48, 8-bit/color RGBA, non-interlaced

Target: /usr/share/gdm/themes/Modern/centos-symbol.png
Package: **Unknown!**
Description: PNG image data, 48 x 48, 8-bit/color RGBA, non-interlaced

Target: /usr/share/gdm/themes/Modern/GdmGreeterTheme.desktop
Package: **Unknown!**
Description: UTF-8 Unicode English text

Target: /usr/share/gdm/themes/Modern/icon-language.png
Package: **Unknown!**
Description: PNG image data, 32 x 32, 8-bit/color RGBA, non-interlaced

Target: /usr/share/gdm/themes/Modern/icon-reboot.png
Package: **Unknown!**
Description: PNG image data, 32 x 32, 8-bit/color RGBA, non-interlaced

Target: /usr/share/gdm/themes/Modern/icon-session.png
Package: **Unknown!**
Description: PNG image data, 32 x 32, 8-bit/color RGBA, non-interlaced

Target: /usr/share/gdm/themes/Modern/icon-shutdown.png
Package: **Unknown!**
Description: PNG image data, 32 x 32, 8-bit/color RGBA, non-interlaced

Target: /usr/share/gdm/themes/Modern/Modern.xml
Package: **Unknown!**
Description: XML 1.0 document text

Target: /usr/share/gdm/themes/Modern/screenshot.png
Package: **Unknown!**
Description: PNG image data, 200 x 150, 8-bit/color RGBA, non-interlaced

3 Design

The centos-release.png and screenshot.png images are rendered for each major release of CentOS. This task is done using the rendering script (render.sh) available in the workplace. This script creates the appropriate PNG images under img/\$VERSION/ directory.

The background.png image is taken from Backgrounds section. This task is done using the building script(build.sh) available in the workplace. This script collects all information, groups it and stores it under tgz/\$VERSION/\$RESOLUTION/ with the form \$THEME.tar.gz.

Whith the building script you can create GDM themes for specific CentOS major releases, and inside each major release for specific screen resolutions.

More information about GDM theming is available in the *GNOME Display Manager Reference Manual*. This guide is available online and inside your system's help. As shortcut to get that help, you can run the following command:

- gnome-help file:///usr/share/gnome/help/gdm/C/gdm.xml#thememanual

4 Configuration

GraphicalTheme : The graphical theme that the Themed Greeter should use. It should refer to a directory in the theme directory set by *GraphicalThemeDir*.

GraphicalTheme=\$THEME

GraphicalThemeDir : The directory where themes for the Themed Greeter are installed.

GraphicalThemeDir=/usr/share/gdm/themes/

BackgroundColor : The Standard greeter (gdmlogin) background color. If the BackgroundType is 2, use this color in the background of the greeter. Also use it as the back of transparent images set on the background and if the BackgroundRemoteOnlyColor is set and this is a remote display. This only affects the GTK+ Greeter.

```
BackgroundColor=#204C8D
```

GraphicalThemeColor : Use this color in the background of the Themed Greeter. This only affects the Themed Greeter.

```
GraphicalThemeColor=#000000
```

More information about GDM and its configuration can be found in its reference guide. As shortcut to get that help, you can run the following command:

- `gnome-help file:///usr/share/gnome/help/gdm/C/gdm.xml#index`

5 Rendering

6 Testing

7 Issues

Transition from Greeter to Desktop : This seems to be available when using the variable *BackgroundImage* in GTK+ Greeter only. In Themed Greeter the best we have is the variable *GraphicalThemedColor* to specify the background color of the transition.

Different resolutions : Designing of GDM theme needs to be expandable through different screen resolutions. By default, GDM theme uses a background image of 2048x1536 pixels. When screen resolution changes the predefined behaviour is to scale this image to fit the current display resolution. If the screen resolution is higher, or differs in ratio (for example when it a wide screens) the design of GDM them could loose quality or look different from the original one.

As a workaround, if GDM theme looks narrow or deformed to you, use the building script to create the GDM theme in your specific screen resolution.

GDM theme installation : Use the login screen administrator (gdmsetup). This action requires you to have *root* privileges.

Default Display Manager : By default GDM is the first display manager choice¹. If you changed this and want to go back then, run the following command (as *root*) and reboot:

```
echo "DISPLAYMANAGER=GNOME" > /etc/sysconfig/desktop
```

¹See the file `/etc/X11/prefdm`.

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Version 1.2, November 2002

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