

How to customize Gnome

Now that you have started to get comfortable with your new operation system, it is time to give it a personal look. As with most open source GUI s you can add *widgets* to the desktop, add and customize the *panels* and change the look of *windows borders* and *windows buttons*... easily!

To web pages you should look into if *Ubuntu* does not have enough to offer for you, is:

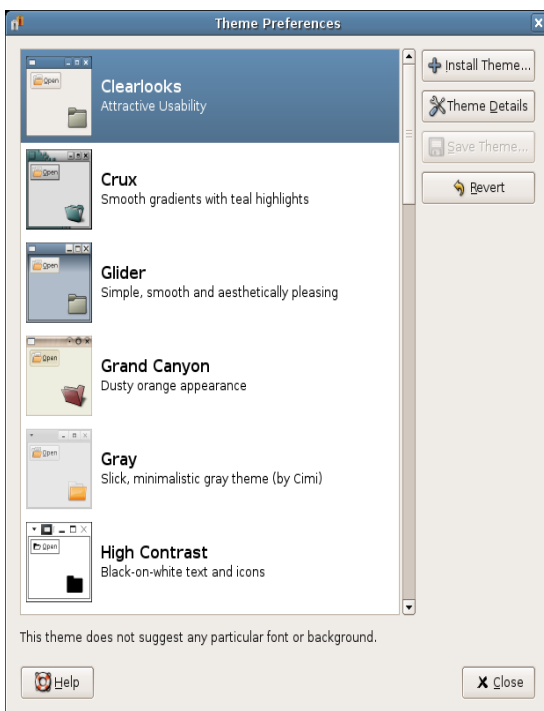
<http://art.gnome.org/>

and

<http://www.gnome-look.org/>

Theme Manager

Open up the *theme manager*, **System > Preferences > Theme**



You will see a screen looking similar to this, the windows borders and buttons are now changed since I have selected another look from the list. If you want to only change the look of either the boarder, icons or window buttons, click the *theme details* button and mix up something on your own, if you save them they will end up in the list. Changes will act immediately.

If you have downloaded additional looks and stuff from the two links, click *install theme* link and drag the file into the pop-up windows and click install.

Change desktop background

Found in **System > Preferences > Desktop Background** or by right clicking the desktop and choose *Change Desktop Background* and this window will open. Everything is pretty much self explained. *Desktop Colour* is the colour beneath the background, if the background image is smaller than the background or if you choose not to have a desktop background image, this colour will be shown.



Customizing the Panels

With the *panels* you can choose size, transparent opaque, use a background as skin, change solid colour, add different hiding options, add a lot of extensions as media players buttons, add short cuts and menus, location and probably even more. Here is a picture of a modified panel.

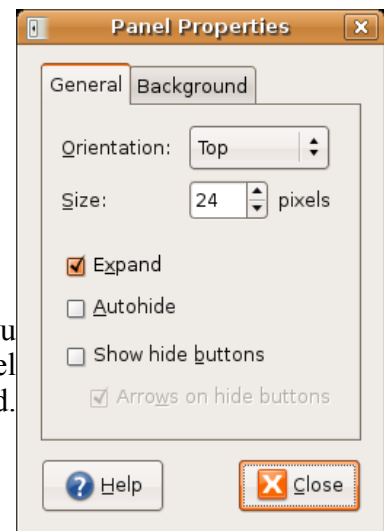


Not the most functional panel, but it shows a little of what you can do with the panels. Here I have added some desktops, you can see the keyboard indicator, the usual menus, some short cuts, the deskbar that search for programs on your computer, files and on the internet, etc and a couple of other features.

Experience some at your own, here are some useful tools to get most things done.



Right click panel > Add to Panel, here you will find many useful items you can add to your panels. Either click 'n drag the items on to your panels or choose an item and the click *Add*.



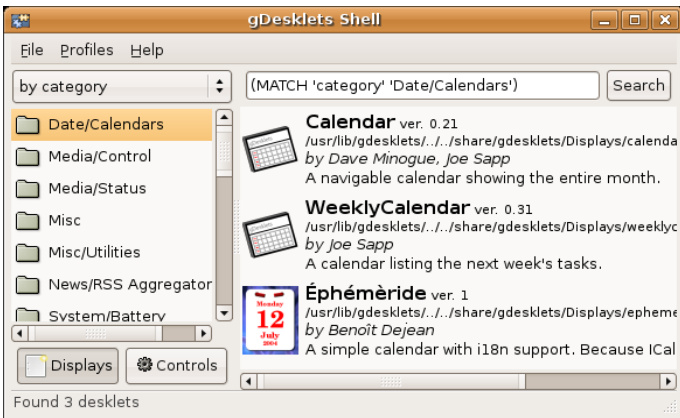
Panel Properties found in **Right click panel > Properties**, here you find some few options on look, size, hiding and where the panel should be placed.

To add shot cuts from the menu you just right-click the applications from the menu and chose *Add this launcher to Panel*.

Now you should now enough to explore a little on your own and probably find out new things about the panels by your own.

Widgets with gDesklets

Using *gDesklets* is probably the easiest way to add widgets to the desktop, it is not installed by default, but the package is called *gdesklets* (and *gdesklets-data* contains a lot of the widgets) and you already know how to install them. It should be placed here **Applications > Accessories > gDesklets**, looking like this:



Easily double-click the widgets you want to add to our desktop and place them where you want them. You can sort by category, author and alphabet or search.

gDesklets features *float mode*, press a key and all your desklets will come to front, floating above your applications, until you press that key again. The default keybinding is <Shift> <F12>, but you can easily change that in the configuration dialog.

Here is a picture of a desktop with some widgets running:



Not the best use of widgets, but you get the picture. Explore and find widgets that meets your needs. Remember that widgets uses some of you resources, so if you can manage without widgets there are not many reasons to add widgets except for showing off and make nice screen shots.