Exploring New Paradigms of Computing for GNOME

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Objectives

- Explore new ways to make the desktop user experience better than ever
- Take advantage of GNOME's current development stage
- Solicit ideas to build on this presentation's recommendations

Sections

- The Idea of a Paradigm
- How GNOME is Facing Computing Challenges
- Exploring New Paradigms

THE IDEA OF A PARADIGM

Paradigm's Definition

"The word paradigm stems from the Greek word Paradiegma, originally a scientific term but commonly used today to mean a perception, assumption, theory, from of reference or lens through which you view the world." (Stephen Covey, 2004)

Why paradigm?

- "If you want to make significant, quantum improvement, work on paradigms." (Stephen Covey, 2004)

HOW GNOME IS FACING COMPUTING CHALLENGES

Some of Today's Computing Challenges

- Increasing number of computing distractions

- The need to focus on and speed up productive work

GNOME 3.0

- GNOME Shell revolutionizes computing
  - New concept of apps
  - Activities Overview
  - New notification system
  - Task Switching
  - Etc.

EXPLORING NEW PARADIGMS

The Rise of Mobile Devices

- "PCs are going to be like trucks" (Steve Jobs, 2010)
- Smartphone platforms are very easy to use
- We can learn from mobile devices

Application-Centrism

- "The application is the new operating system" (Matt Asay, 2010)
  - "Focus on the user...we can surpass Apple in refining the future of the operating system, letting applications, and particularly Web applications, dominate the computing experience, instead of making customers plod through file systems and other remnants of a bygone era."

Application-Centrism (Cont.)

- To create a more app-centric environment, Allan Day suggests the need for a document manager to reduce the need to access the filesystem

- GNOME Shell is now addressing this with the concept odf applications and not just windows

Context-Centrism

- Windows Phone 7 Hubs: people, music, games, music & video, marketplace, and office

- David Allen's Getting Things Done
  - The use of "contexts" for stress-free productivity

- This may reduce cognitive load or the use of "psychic RAM" (Allen, 2003)

Context-Centrism (Cont.)

- David Allen's Getting Things Done
  - "A few actions can be done anywhere (like drafting ideas about a project with pen and paper), but most require a specific location (at home, at your office) or having some productivity tool at hand, such as a phone or a computer. These are the first factors that limit your choices about what you can do in the moment."

Context-Centrism (Cont.)

- This may reduce cognitive load or the use of "psychic RAM" (Allen, 2003)
- Awareness of context
  - Time tracking

What We Can Do

- Take advantage of multiple workspaces
- Use application categories to define contexts

Challenges

- Defining webapps
- Being fit to the user with established habits and expectations
- Defining contexts

Finally...

Recommended Next Actions

- Be realistic
- Think of the right hubs
- See how this will fit in GNOME's roadmap

Comments? Ideas? ☺