Getting Off the Ground with Compiz

Compiz is one of the tools used for graphics rendering and user interaction with an Ubuntu OS. It is used a lot for the main Ubuntu display, and corrupting it could render an Ubuntu useless. In this document, we will discuss 2 basic Compiz tweaks that could prove useful for the average Ubuntu user.

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Introduction to Compiz

Compiz is not, by default, a tool that an Ubuntu user can modify. However, there is a software called CCSM (Compiz Config Settings Manager) that can be downloaded onto an Ubuntu to tweak a few settings that are set by Compiz. This can be downloaded with the following command:

```
sudo apt-get install compizconfig-settings-manager
```

Once CCSM is installed, you have all of the power to tweak most of your Ubuntu's settings. CCSM can be started from the terminal by typing the command:

```
ccsm
```

CCSM is actually not very difficult to understand, and slowly experimenting with it can help the average user optimize his Ubuntu for his own use. However, it is imperative to understand that some tweaks are dangerous for your operating system. Thus, it is a good idea to look up what you are planning on changing to see if it could possibly break your Ubuntu.

Disabling the HUD

Open CCSM, and click on the button for the Unity plugin. The first button should be labeled as "Key to show the HUD". Disable it, and pressing the "Alt" button will no longer display a HUD, making the "Alt+Tab" application switcher work more seamlessly than before.

Un-Biasing the Alt-Tab

Open CCSM, and click on the button for the Unity plugin. Then, click on the "Switcher" tab at the top of the CCSM pane. Underneath it should be a button labeled as "Bias alt-tab to prefer windows on the current viewport". Uncheck the box next to it, and Alt-Tab will now allow you to view applications in other workspaces, and switch to them.