

**NAME**

gdm3 – GNOME Display Manager

**SYNOPSIS**

gdm3

**DESCRIPTION**

**gdm3** is the equivalent of **xdm** (1x) or **wdm** (1x), but uses the GNOME libraries to provide a GNOME look-and-feel. It provides the GNOME equivalent of a “login:” prompt.

**gdm3** reads */etc/gdm3/custom.conf* for its configuration. For each local display, gdm starts an X server and runs a minimal GNOME session including a graphical greeter. If configured so, the main gdm process also listens for XDMCP requests from remote displays. These requests can either be direct, causing **gdm3** to start a session on the remote display, or indirect, causing a chooser to be opened.

When managing a display, **gdm3** attempts to execute */etc/gdm3/Init/display*, or */etc/gdm3/Init/Default* if that does not exist. When a user logs in, **gdm3** first attempts */etc/gdm3/PreSession/display* (or */etc/gdm3/PreSession/Default*), and then one of the sessions defined in */usr/share/xsessions*. When the session has completed, **gdm** attempts to run */etc/gdm3/PostSession/display*, or */etc/gdm3/PostSession/Default*.

**gdm3** maintains information about the displays it is managing in */var/lib/gdm3*. This includes xauth information, so this directory is not readable to normal users.

**gdm3** uses PAM to perform authentication using the config file */etc/pam.d/gdm3*.

**ENVIRONMENT****XAUTHORITY**

Upon session startup, GDM sets the XAUTHORITY environment variable to a session-specific file in */var/run/gdm3*.

Applications and scripts that assume this file is set to *~/.Xauthority* will not work. To access the display you need both DISPLAY and XAUTHORITY variables.

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