

Lab - Changing Desktops in Fedora (2022)

Overview

Fedora's default desktop environment is GNOME. It is a minimalist environment, but if you prefer a more classic desktop, it is straightforward to try any of the eight other available desktop environments without affecting your current desktop environment.

The following commands work on both Fedora Workstation and Fedora Server.

From your existing Fedora desktop, open a terminal, and at the prompt, type the following command.

```
sudo dnf grouplist -v
```

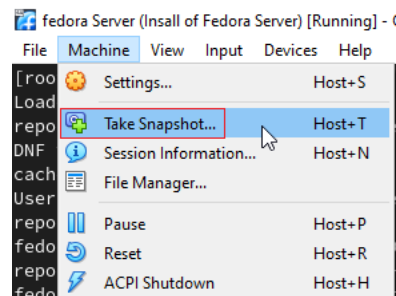
```
[root@fedora ~]# dnf grouplist -v
Fedora Modular 35 - x86_64 - Updates          5.1 kB/s | 3.6 kB    00:00
reviving: 'updates-modular' can be revived - metalink checksums match.
updates-modular: using metadata from Wed 16 Mar 2022 12:53:50 PM EDT.
Available Environment Groups:
  Fedora Custom Operating System (custom-environment)
  Minimal Install (minimal-environment)
  Fedora Workstation (workstation-product-environment)
  Fedora Cloud Server (cloud-server-environment)
  KDE Plasma Workspaces (kde-desktop-environment)
  Xfce Desktop (xfce-desktop-environment)
  LXDE Desktop (lxde-desktop-environment)
  LXQt Desktop (lxqt-desktop-environment)
  Cinnamon Desktop (cinnamon-desktop-environment)
  MATE Desktop (mate-desktop-environment)
  Sugar Desktop Environment (sugar-desktop-environment)
  Deepin Desktop (deepin-desktop-environment)
  Development and Creative Workstation (developer-workstation-environment)
  Web Server (web-server-environment)
```

The results have been truncated for brevities' sake, but you can see that from the output, you have an additional eight desktops you can choose from. My preference is the Cinnamon Desktop (cinnamon-desktop-environment). It has more of a classic feel and appearance. I installed each of the eight desktops to see what they had to offer.

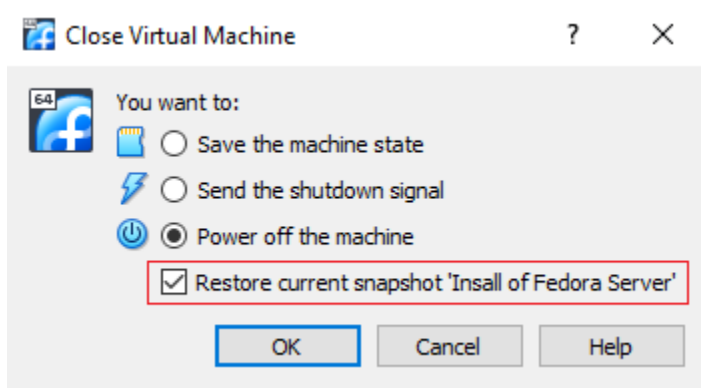
In this lab, we'll install two of the eight, and you are free to install the others as you see fit.

Before you begin, take a snapshot.

I recommend that you first take a snapshot of your existing configuration. Use the following image as your guide.



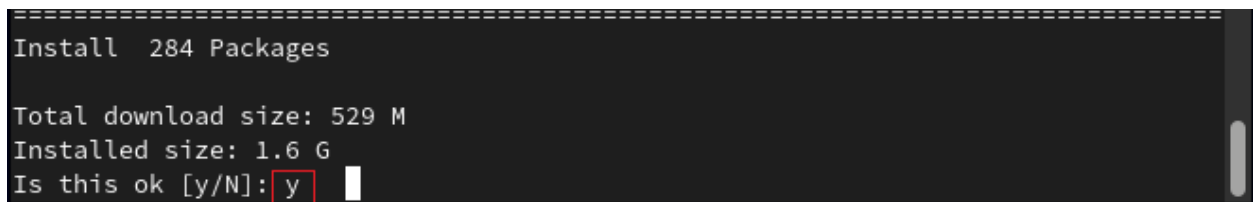
Once you have saved the snapshot, you can restore Fedora to a previous configuration by forcing the machine to power off. When you restart the virtual disk, your install will be rolled back to its previous configuration.



Clear your terminal and at the prompt, type in the following command to install the Cinnamon Desktop Environment.

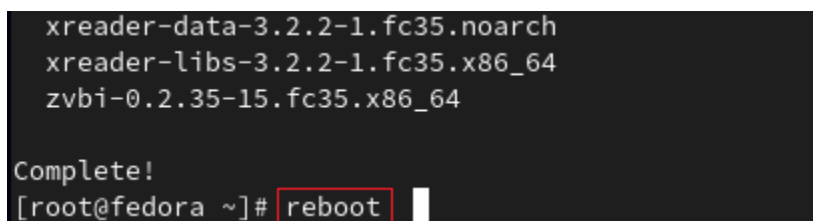
```
sudo dnf install @cinnamon-desktop-environment
```

Scroll to the bottom of the screen and type in 'Y' to accept the installation.

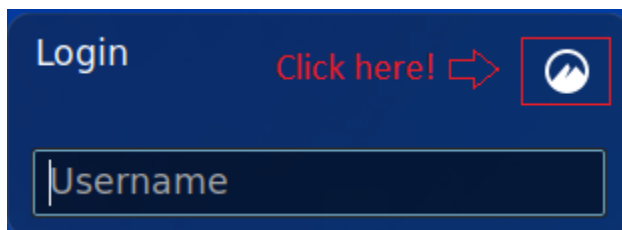


Be patient! There are 284 packages to download and install.

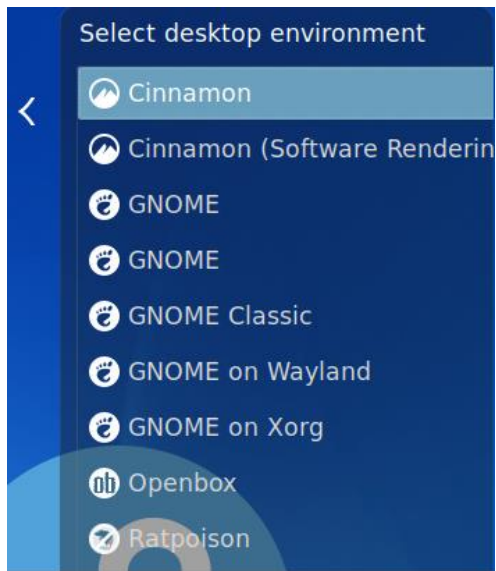
Once the installation is complete, reboot your Fedora machine.



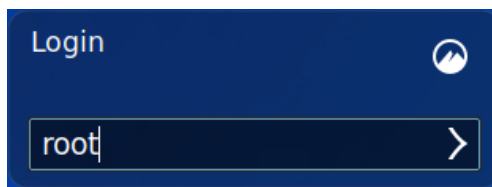
When the machine comes back up, notice your login changes. This is where you choose what desktop environment you want. Click the icon to the right of the login screen.



This expands the number of available desktop environments you can choose from.

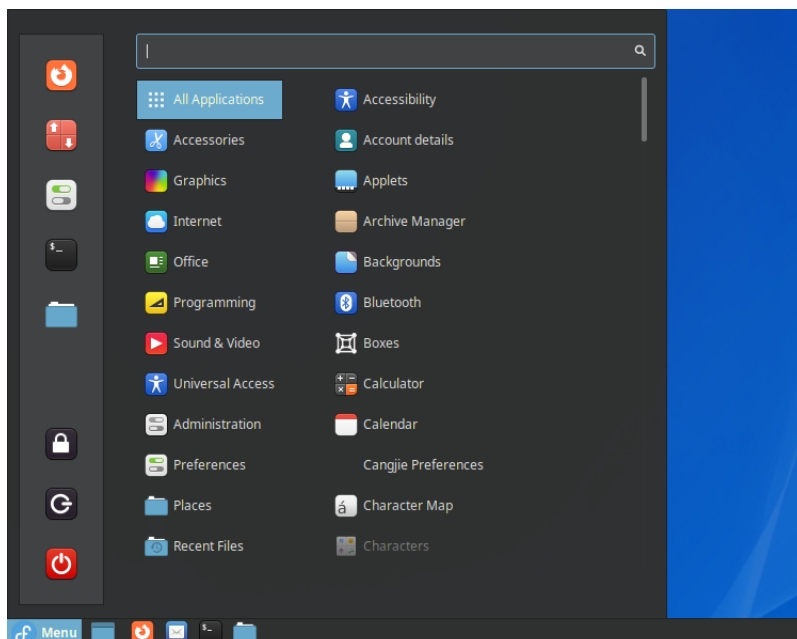


In this example, I've chosen, Cinnamon. Click the back arrow to return to the login screen—type in your login name. Click the arrow to input your password.



Press enter.

Your desktop of choice loads.



Install additional desktops

To install any of the remaining desktops, replace the name of the desktop after the @ symbol.

For instance, to install the `xfce-desktop-environment`, after the @ symbol, I would replace the name of the last desktop environment with the new one.

The old command was:

```
sudo dnf install @cinnamon-desktop-environment
```

To install the Xfce Desktop Environment, I replaced `cinnamon-desktop-environment` with:

```
sudo dnf install @xfce-desktop-environment
```

End of the lab!