

“no matter where you are, everyone is always connected”

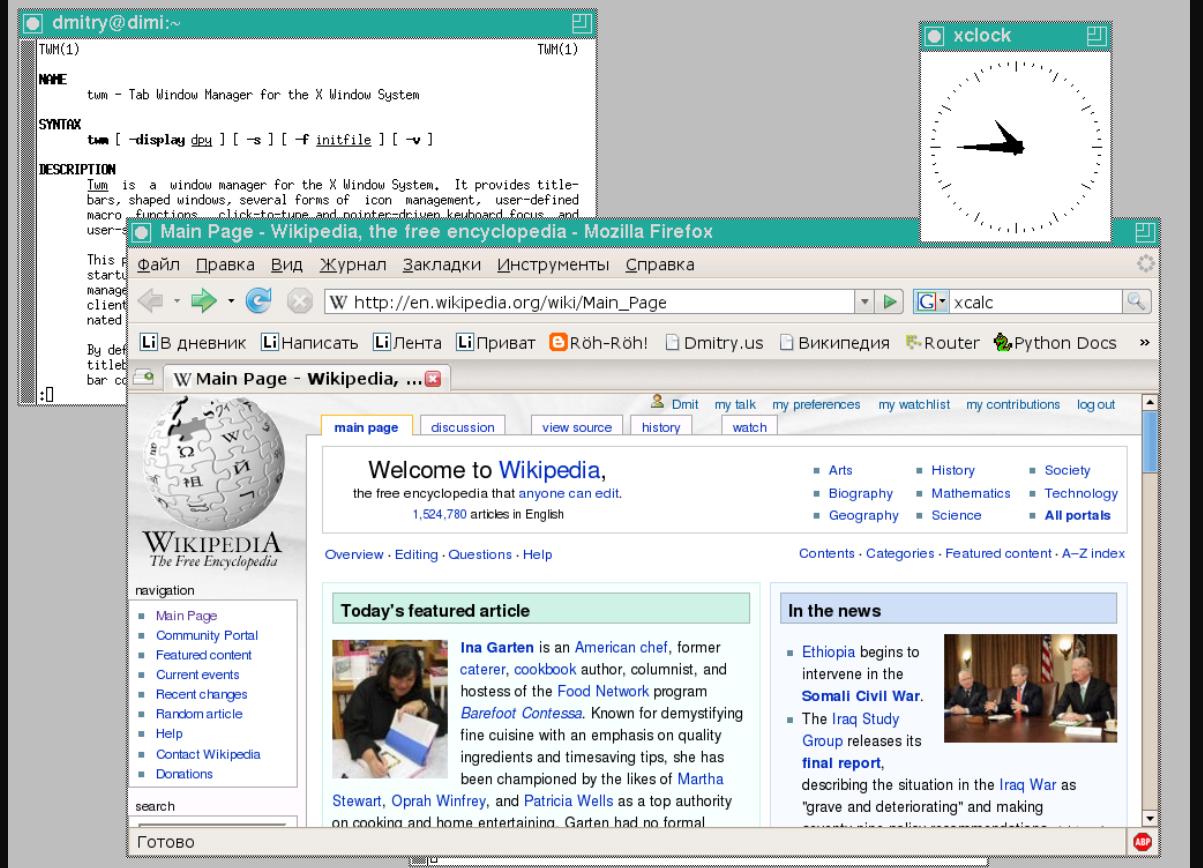
20

X11 and Display Managers

What is X11?

X11 is a windowing server. Basically, it's a framework that provides the GUI for Linux originally developed by MIT. Without it, you would not be able to interact with Linux graphically.

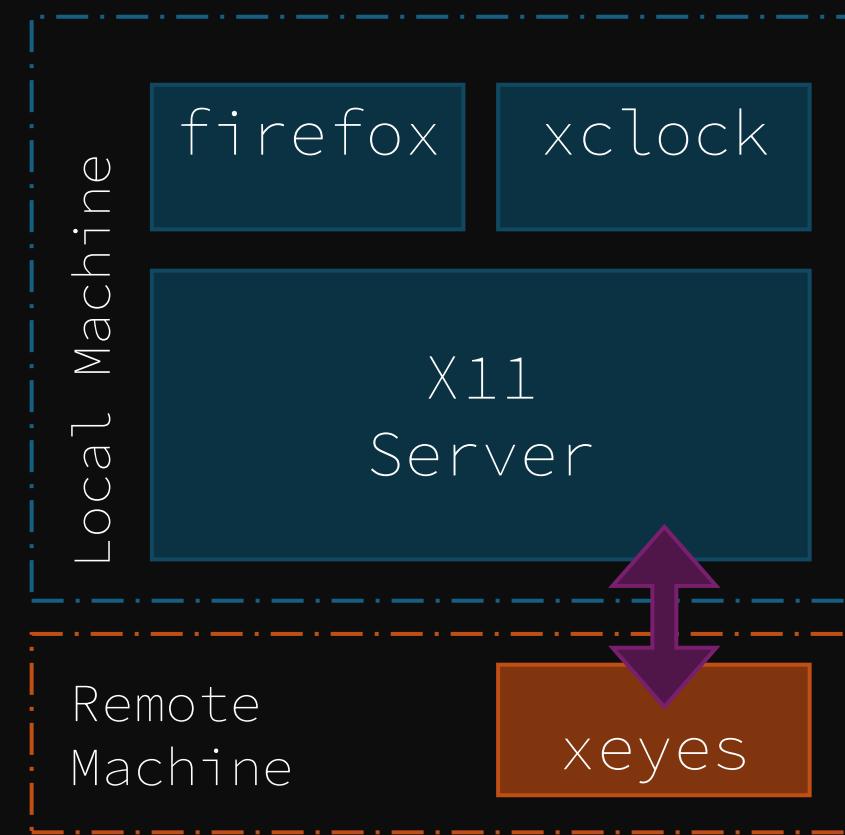
X11 is not the only windowing system for Linux, but remains popular for building graphical applications to this day.



X11? A Server?

Yes, X11 is a server. It uses a client-server model. However, not in the way you might think. An X server runs with a window manager to serve clients. These clients are your applications, like Firefox, the clock, etc.

However, this allows for some more unconventional ways to use X11. With the right setup, the X11 server can serve “clients” over a network. You can see how that can be an issue.

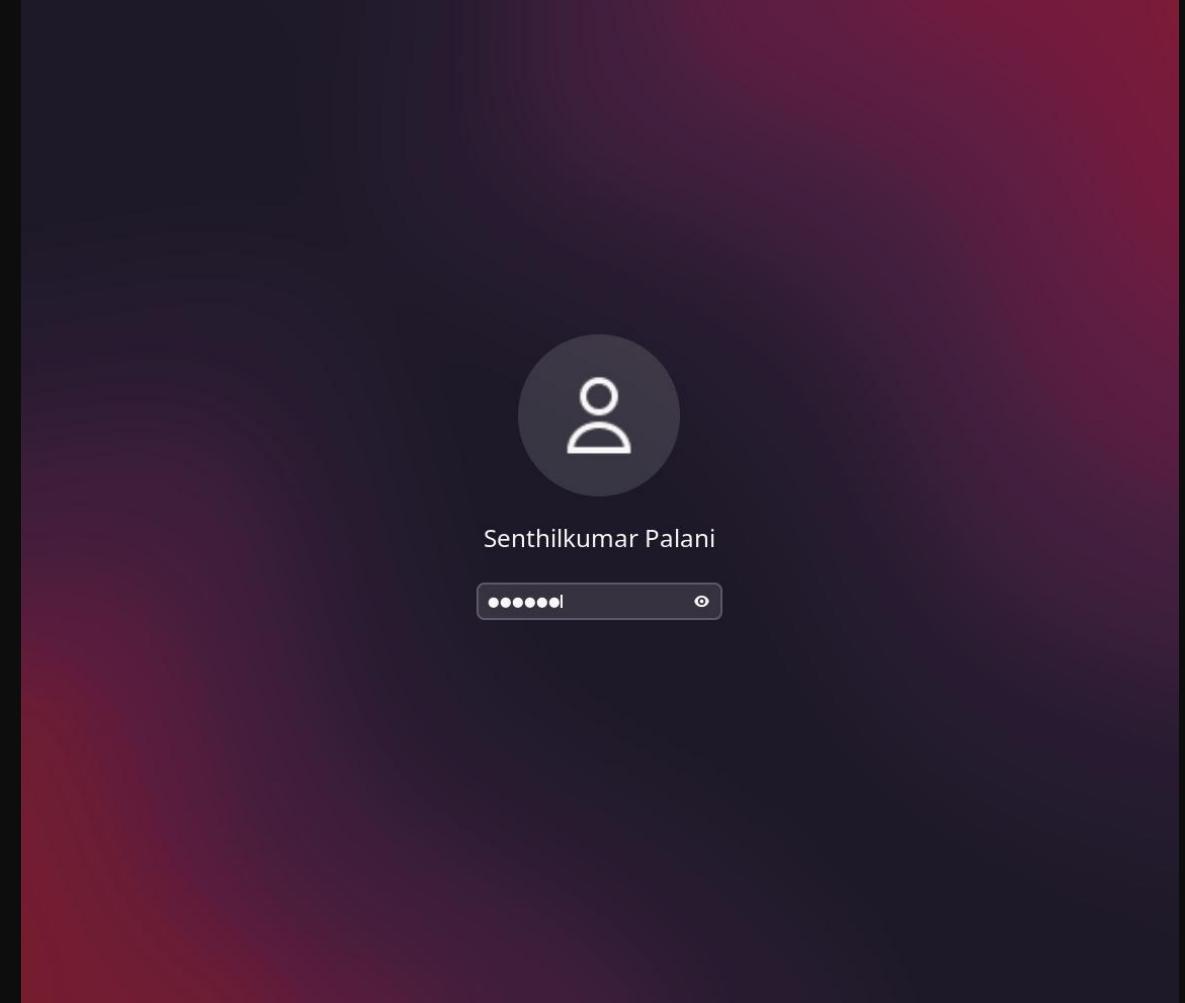


Display Managers

Display managers control X sessions for each user.

This is the login screen that you see when you boot into the system.

Both Linux Mint and Ubuntu use *lightdm*. You may have heard of it, and you may have messed it up in the past.



Stopping X11 TCP Connections

in terminal

```
# netstat -tulpn | grep 6000
```

The usual way people connect with the X server is via `ssh -X`, and you would typically prevent that by disabling X11 forwarding in `sshd_config`.

But X11 can serve its own connections. First check if port 6000 is being used by X11.

Stopping X11 TCP Connections

in file `/etc/lightdm/lightdm.conf`

```
[Seat:*]
```

```
...
```

```
xserver-allow-tcp=false
```

```
...
```

```
[XDMCPServer]
```

```
enabled=false
```

```
...
```

```
[VNCServer]
```

```
enabled=false
```

If X11 listens for connections, you can change this behavior through the display manager.

There are also other vnc-like options here that you can also disable.

The Guest Session

in file /etc/lightdm/lightdm.conf

[Seat: *]

...

allow-guest=false
autologin-guest=false

You may also want to disable the guest account which can also be done here.

ALSO UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES CHANGE ANYTHING ELSE,
ESPECIALLY AUTOLOGIN!!!