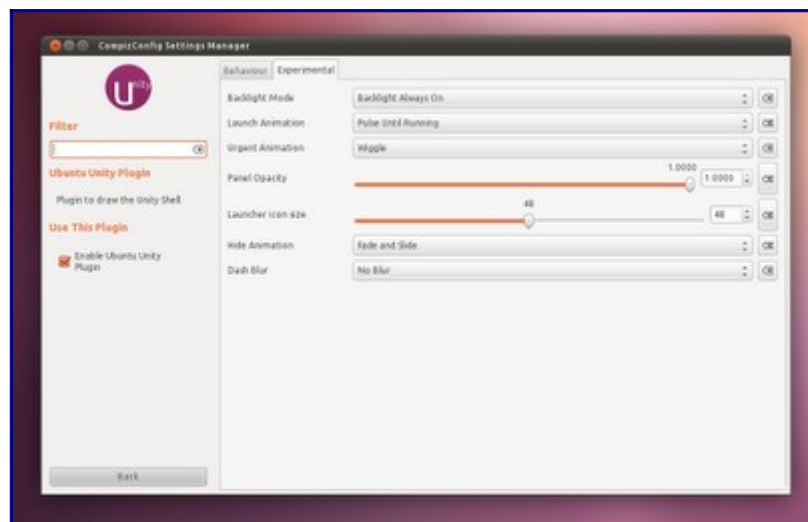


Things To Tweak / Fix After Installing Ubuntu 11.04 Natty Narwhal

A note before reading this post: before giving up on Unity without giving it a try... don't. Try Unity for a few days - yes, it's not a finished product but it's actually quite interesting - and if you don't like it then switch.

If you've just upgraded to Ubuntu 11.04 Natty Narwhal, there are probably a few things you'll miss, so here is how to get them back as well as some other things you may find useful.

Install CompizConfig Settings Manager and Tweak Unity to better suit your needs:

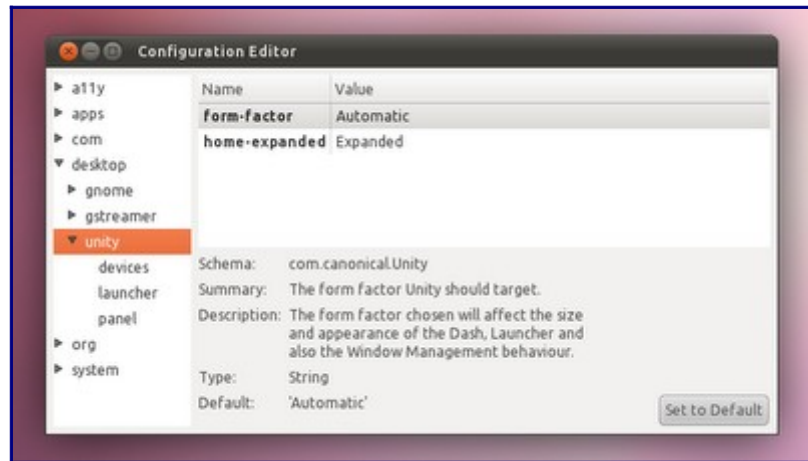


```
sudo apt-get install compizconfig-settings-manager
```

Then search for CompizConfig Settings Manager in Dash and you'll find the Unity-related options under the "Unity" Compiz plugin. Some other options are under other plugins so check those out too.

Using CCSM, you'll be able to tweak the Unity launcher reveal mode, hide behavior, change some Unity-specific keyboard shortcuts, change the Unity launcher icon size, the top panel opacity, tweak various animations and more.

Another tool for configuring some hidden Unity settings is Dconf-editor.

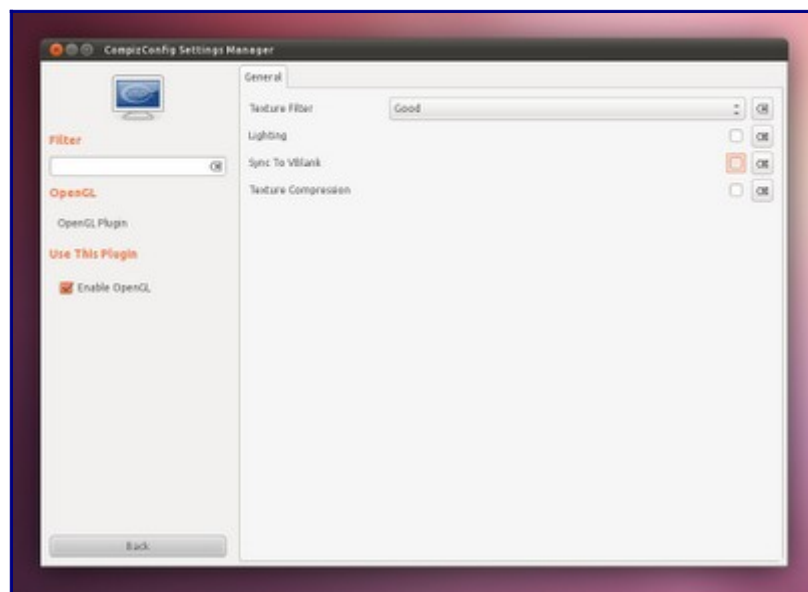


To be able to use it you must firstly install dconf-tools:

```
sudo apt-get install dconf-tools
```

Then press ALT + F2, enter "dconf-editor" and look under *desktop > unity*.

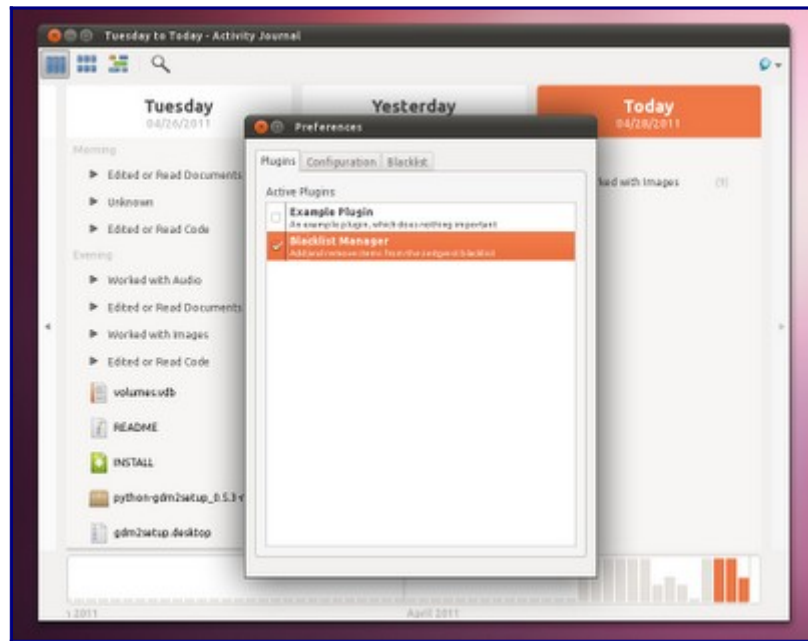
Using an AMD (ATI) graphics card with the latest Catalyst 11.04 and experience bad performance / lag?



To get better performance, install CompizConfig Settings Manager (see the first tip in the post for installing it), then open it from Dash and go to the "OpenGL" plugin and uncheck the "Sync to VBlank" option.

(fix thanks to [SarfzStrife](#))

Is Dash displaying your hidden / private files or your porn?



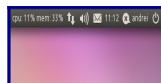
Until [Zeitgeist Global Privacy](#) is released, install [Activity Journal](#) (don't use the version in the official Ubuntu 11.04 Natty Narwhal repositories - that doesn't seem to work), go to its Preferences and on the Plugins tab, enable "Blacklist Manager" (seems you have to double click the checkbox to enable it) - now a new "Blacklist" tab should be displayed. Here, click the add button and enter the path to your private files (porn). If you want to block all files, use "*" for the path.

You can also clear the Zeitgeist history (this is the history of recent files that's display in Dash) by using the following commands:

```
rm ~/.local/share/zeitgeist/activity.sqlite  
zeitgeist-daemon --replace
```

(via [AskUbuntu](#))

Want to monitor the RAM / CPU usage?



Yes, the Unity top panel doesn't support any kind of applets, just AppIndicators. Luckily, there's an AppIndicator that displays the RAM and CPU usage. Install it using the commands below:

```
sudo add-apt-repository ppa:alexeftimie/ppa  
sudo apt-get update  
sudo apt-get install indicator-sysmonitor
```

Then, launch System Monitor Indicator from Dash.

Want the regular Firefox 4 menu like on Windows?



In Firefox, go to the Addons Manager and disable the Global Menu Bar Integration extension, restart Firefox, then right click the menu and deselect the Menu Bar.

Do you use [Dropbox](#) and the AppIndicator doesn't show up on the Unity panel?



Fix it using the following commands:

```
dropbox stop  
rm -r ~/.dropbox-dist
```

Then,

32bit:

```
cd  
wget http://dl-web.dropbox.com/u/17/dropbox-lnx.x86-1.1.28.tar.gz  
tar -xvf dropbox-lnx.x86-1.1.28.tar.gz
```

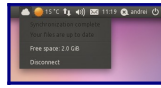
64bit:

```
cd  
wget http://dl-web.dropbox.com/u/17/dropbox-lnx.x86_64-1.1.28.tar.gz  
tar -xvf dropbox-lnx.x86_64-1.1.28.tar.gz
```

And finally start Dropbox:

```
dropbox start
```

Ubuntu One is displayed on the Unity launcher and the Messaging Menu (why the...?) yet both entries are totally useless - none displays the current sync status.

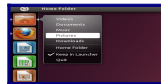


If you use Ubuntu One, make it usable by installing the [Ubuntu One AppIndicator](#):

```
sudo add-apt-repository ppa:rye/ubuntuone-extras
sudo apt-get update
sudo apt-get install ubuntuone-indicator
```

Then launch it from the Dash.

Missing a quick way to access your Downloads / Pictures / Documents / Videos folders?



Sure, you can access them via Dash but for a quicker solution, add quicklists to the Nautilus Home folder launcher (which is displayed by default on top of the Unity launcher) by running the following command (copy all the text as a single command!) in a terminal:

```
echo "[Desktop Entry]

Name=Home Folder
Comment=Open your personal folder
TryExec=nautilus
Exec=nautilus --no-desktop
Icon=user-home
Terminal=false
StartupNotify=true
Type=Application
Categories=GNOME;GTK;Core;
OnlyShowIn=GNOME;Unity;
X-GNOME-Bugzilla-Bugzilla=GNOME
X-GNOME-Bugzilla-Product=nautilus
X-GNOME-Bugzilla-Component=general
X-Ubuntu-Gettext-Domain=nautilus

X-Ayatana-Desktop-Shortcuts=Videos;Documents;Music;Pictures;Downloads
[Videos Shortcut Group]
Name=Videos
Exec=nautilus Videos
TargetEnvironment=Unity

[Documents Shortcut Group]
Name=Documents
```

```
Exec=nautilus Documents
TargetEnvironment=Unity
```

```
[Music Shortcut Group]
Name=Music
Exec=nautilus Music
TargetEnvironment=Unity
```

```
[Pictures Shortcut Group]
Name=Pictures
Exec=nautilus Pictures
TargetEnvironment=Unity
```

```
[Downloads Shortcut Group]
Name=Downloads
Exec=nautilus Downloads
TargetEnvironment=Unity" | sudo tee /usr/share/applications/nautilus-
home.desktop
```

If the quicklists don't show up, you may need to log out or restart Unity.

(tip via [AskUbuntu](https://askubuntu.com))

Want to remove Unity Places Files / Applications shortcuts from the Unity Launcher?



Clicking the Ubuntu logo in the top left corner of the screen and then "More Apps" or "Find in Files" will let you access the Unity Places Files / Applications. You can also directly search in Dash for an application name. However, 2 more shortcuts are placed on the launcher that serve the same purpose: Unity Place Files / Applications:



Since vertical space is important even on a large monitor, if you can find your way without these 2 Unity places, you'll probably want to remove them. Here's how to do it:

- firstly make a backup of the original files (the following commands will back them up in the "backups" folder in your home directory):

```
mkdir ~/backups
cp /usr/share/unity/places/applications.place ~/backups/
cp /usr/share/unity/places/files.place ~/backups/
```

Now, to hide Unity Place Files icon, run this command:

```
sudo sed -i '14i ShowEntry=false' /usr/share/unity/places/files.place
```

And to hide the Unity Place Applications icon, run this:

```
sudo sed -i '12i ShowEntry=false' /usr/share/unity/places/applications.place
```

Only run the above 2 commands once! Then log out and log back in or run "unity --replace".

If you want to restore the icons, remove the first "ShowEntry=false" entry in these two files:

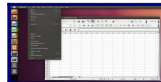
- /usr/share/unity/places/applications.place
- /usr/share/unity/places/files.place

Or restore your backup:

```
sudo cp $HOME/backups/*.place /usr/share/unity/places/
```

(tip thanks to Richard Arkless; via [Ubuntuforums](http://ubuntuforums.org))

By default, LibreOffice doesn't use the AppMenu (Global Menu) which makes it inconsistent with the rest of the desktop.



But you can manually **install AppMenu support for LibreOffice:**

```
sudo apt-get install lo-menubar
```

Note: it seems the LibreOffice AppMenu doesn't always work ok so if you're experiencing any issues with it, simply uninstall it (use "remove" instead of "install" in the above command).

Can't get the time indicator to display the weather?



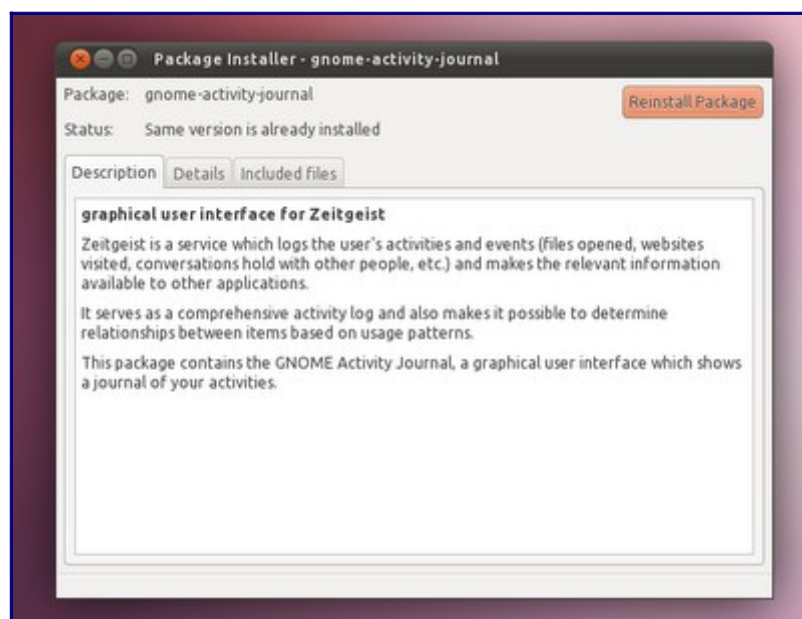
That's because it doesn't support it. But you can **get the weather in your panel by installing [Weather Indicator](#)** which is available in the official Ubuntu 11.04 repositories:

```
sudo apt-get install indicator-weather
```

Once installed, run it from Dash.

Ubuntu Software Center doesn't let you install some application you really like, displaying the following error: "The package is of bad quality"? Install the .deb using DPKG, like so:

```
sudo dpkg -i PACKAGENAME.deb
```



Or [use Gdebi to install .deb files instead of Ubuntu Software Center](#).

Dash takes the whole screen size? This happens for some smaller screen laptops or netbooks.



This won't work for any computer (like 10" netbooks) but if you have a big enough resolution (like 1366x768), you can make Dash smaller (like in the screenshot above) by running the following command:

```
gsettings set com.canonical.Unity form-factor "Desktop"
```

In case you want to revert this change, use:

```
gsettings set com.canonical.Unity form-factor "Automatic"
```

By default, **to access the Software Sources (where you can see and add repositories and PPAs) you must open Ubuntu Software Center and only then access Software Sources.**



Fix this by searching for "Main Menu" in Dash, then enable "Software Sources" under *System > Administration*.

Do you miss an ["show desktop" icon on the Unity Launcher](#)?



Run the following commands in a terminal:

```
sudo apt-get install wmctrl  
cd  
wget http://webupd8.googlecode.com/files/showdesktop.tar.gz  
tar -xvf showdesktop.tar.gz && rm showdesktop.tar.gz  
sudo mv showdesktop /usr/local/bin/
```

Then navigate to your home folder and drag and drop the "showdesktop.desktop file on your Unity launcher. Or use **SUPER + D** keyboard shortcut to show/hide the desktop.

Want the systray (notification area) back?



Enable it for all applications using the following command:

```
gsettings set com.canonical.Unity.Panel systray-whitelist "['all']"
```

Then log out and log back in.

Important: if AppIndicators stop working or you can't enable the systray using the above command (it seems that sometimes changing this via command line fails), see: [How To Re-Enable The Notification Area \(Systray\) In Ubuntu 11.04, For All Applications](#) and try to only whitelist a few applications.

Don't like the AppMenu (GlobalMenu)?



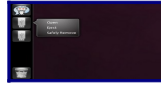
Uninstall it:

```
sudo apt-get remove appmenu-gtk indicator-applet-appmenu indicator-appmenu
```

Then log out and log back in.

But this will probably remove the ubuntu-desktop meta package. If you want, you can also disable it, either for all applications or only some: [Disable The AppMenu \(Global Menu\) In Ubuntu 11.04](#).

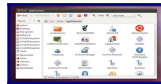
Are the [external devices / mounted partitions cluttering your Unity launcher](#)?



Hide them:

```
gsettings set com.canonical.Unity.Devices devices-option "Never"
```

Hate the new overlay scrollbars?



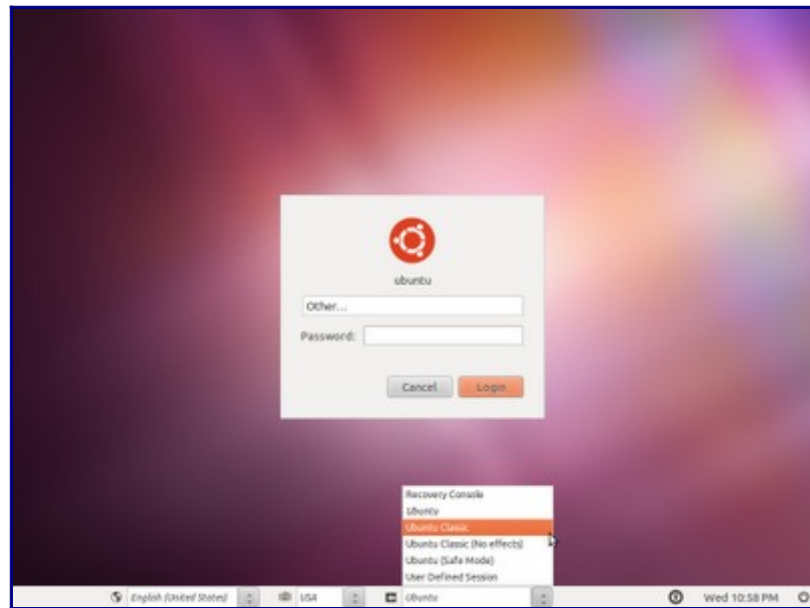
Remove them:

```
sudo apt-get remove overlay-scrollbar liboverlay-scrollbar-0.1-0
```

Just like with AppMenu, this may remove the ubuntu-desktop meta package. If that's the case, disable the overlay scrollbars instead of removing them: [How To Disable The Overlay Scrollbars In Ubuntu 11.04 \[Quick Tip\]](#)

Missing your favourite applet? Try finding an AppIndicator equivalent: there's a huge list on [AskUbuntu](#) and we've also posted more in-depth posts on [most of them](#).

And of course, the "ultimate fix": don't like Unity but want to use Ubuntu 11.04? Unity doesn't work with your computer's hardware? You have 3 options:



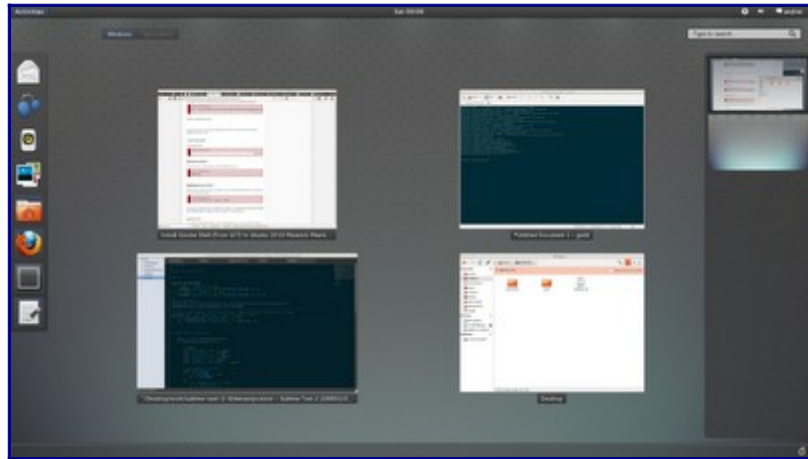
- in the login screen, select the "**Ubuntu Classic**" session and everything will look like in Ubuntu 10.10 (except for updated packages and overlay scrollbars).



- **use Unity 2D:**

```
sudo apt-get install unity-2d
```

Then in the login screen, select Unity 2D instead of "Ubuntu" session.



- **install GNOME 3 with GNOME Shell** via [GNOME 3 PPA](#) (warning: you won't be able to use Unity after using this PPA) or if you want to use both Unity and GNOME Shell, [compile it yourself](#) (this will allow you to easily switch back to Unity if you want).

Do you know something else that needs tweaking / fixing in Ubuntu 11.04 Natty Narwhal? Let us know in the comments!