

# The philosophy of my desktop.

By Zugrăvel Teodor

I use Fedora GNU/Linux, but why do I use it ? Fedora is a semi-rolling release distribution based on Red Hat. A rolling release distribution gives you small daily updates instead of monthly/yearly updates, that means that your distribution always has the newest kernel release, the newest desktop environment release etc. meaning that you always have the latest security patches. Fedora is a semi-rolling release, meaning that once in a while it gets a bigger update (requires restart) and the rest are rolling release updates (optional restart). It's also very stable, it's actively maintained and the Fedora community is very large, which are key components when choosing open source software. Fedora also comes with Security Enhanced Linux (SELinux for short) and firewalld which are very good security software that every distribution should have.

As my desktop environment I chose Gnome, not because I find window managers too difficult, I have used window managers before and I have noticed they used way less ram, they were easy to understand, and they slightly improved my productivity. But Gnome has some features that a window manager does not have: night light, screen timer (that also gives you break reminders and turns on gray-scale after too much time spent on the computer) and the Gnome software. I also noticed that I did not procrastinate less while using a window manager, even if I could open and do stuff slightly faster, so I guess that the only bonus was the light ram consumption and my laptop had enough ram to run everything I needed with Gnome.

I see most people screaming through their screen that they hate using x11 because "It's very insecure and it's harder for developers to work with." As a wayland user I have to say that while x11 might be harder for developers to work with (I don't know, I don't work with x11), it's not as insecure as some people claim. Wayland has this feature that isolates software, which means that x11 is less secure because it does not have it, but it does not mean that it's extremely insecure.

I mainly use software as flatpaks, I have seen people like Luke Smith and websites like flatkill.org criticizing flatpaks for not being sandboxed but I think that's a misunderstanding. Flatpaks come by default with the permissions they need, if you want them to be sandboxed (which I highly recommend) you can do that manually extremely easy using something like flatseal. Flatpaks are way more secure than regular software.

When I chose software, I lean towards software that is stable, actively maintained, secure lightweight, I also chose my software not to be part of my desktop environment (e.g. Totem video player) and instead use software like the MPV video player, improving my security by obscurity, when software is actively maintained, it means that it gets fast security patches and bug fixes which is amazing.

Sources mentioned:

- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JPXLpLwEQ\\_E](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JPXLpLwEQ_E)
- flatkill.org