

Part II

Window Managers and Desktop Environments

The window manager is responsible for managing application windows and application-independent behavior, such as pop-up menus appearing in the background. The window manager manages the placement, borders, and decorations of all windows, and is responsible for the look and feel of your particular X session.

Desktop environments typically include an integrated window manager, some sort of control panel, applications, and a consistent look and feel across applications.

The chapters in Part II, *Window Managers and Desktop Environments*, are:

Overview

This chapter provides a conceptual introduction to window managers and desktop environments and briefly surveys some of the many window managers and desktop environments available for Linux.

FVWM

FVWM is a traditional window manager for Linux systems. It is now into its second major version, FVWM2.

Window Maker

Window Maker is an elegant X11 window manager designed to give integration support to GNUstep-based applications. It emulates the look and feel of OpenStep, the NeXTSTEP GUI.

Enlightenment

Enlightenment, often shortened to just E, may be the most elaborate and bizarre window manager available. Enlightenment's motto, "time to rethink everything," provides a good indication of the uniqueness and flashiness behind Enlightenment.

Using GNOME

GNOME, which stands for GNU Network Object Model Environment, is a freely available desktop environment that can be used with any of several window managers, including Enlightenment and Sawfish.

Using KDE

KDE, the K Desktop Environment, is another freely available desktop environment. KDE includes an assortment of games and utilities, as well as an integrated suite of office productivity applications.