

Cinnamon: A GNOME Shell Fork

Finnbarr P. Murphy

(fpm@fpmurphy.com)

[Clement Lefebvre](#), lead developer of the excellent Linux Mint distribution, has started working on a fork of the GNOME Shell called Cinnamon, which tries to offer a layout similar to GNOME 2. Unlike MATE, which is a fork of GNOME 2 that is compatible with GNOME 3, Cinnamon is only a fork of the GNOME Shell and not a fork of GNOME 3.

The emphasis is to be on *making users feel at home and providing them with an easy to use and comfortable desktop experience*. Why fork the GNOME Shell you may ask? According to Lefebvre, the reason is that even though GNOME Shell extensions are cool, you can only do a small amount of stuff with them and you can't control interactions between extensions, their loading order and so on. As a GNOME Shell extension developer I fully agree with Lefebvre.

By the way, the Cinnamon code can be downloaded via Github from [here](#). Not much there yet in the form of new code as the initial commit was only on December 10th 2011.

Interestingly, Lefebvre lives in Atlone, Co. Westmeath, Ireland.