

# Fedora 33 announcement, news and known issues

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Once a year, we upgrade all the desktop systems to the latest version of Fedora, our Linux desktop operating system.



## General information

- [Fedora 33 release notes](#)
- [Common Bugs and Known Issues and workarounds](#)

Local links:

- [Linux desktop environments](#)
- [Fedora compatibility settings](#)
- [Fedora tips](#)

## New in F33, or in our Fedora setup:

- Gnome 3.38 (see below for details)
  - Various Gnome shell extensions that you can load for yourself from <https://extensions.gnome.org/>
- Cloud integration: you can link your [Google Drive](#), [OwnCloud](#)/SurfDrive and some other cloud storage services the file manager (in addition to [Dropbox](#), which has been there for a couple of years).  
Various online calendars can be integrated in the desktop calendar utility.
- **Python is now by default 3.9.** You can still call python2 to get a python 2.7 interpreter, but NO PACKAGES are installed for it any more; so you can just use this to build your own python2 environment if needed.
  - Command python will now invoke python3 so **check your own scripts.**
  - We have a working version of AMUSE installed for python3, please initialize it using `module load amuse/12.1-py3` (shell command to run before starting amuse or python)
  - If you still need python2, a private install or virtualenv will still be possible, but you may have to explicitly install an older version (e.g. `pip2 install -user`

- astropy==2.0.12)
- To install a python2 kernel in jupyter, a personal setup can be made using `python2 -m ipykernel install --user`
- We also have the interpreters of python 3.5, 3.6, 3.7 and 3.8 installed, for compatibility and in case you need them for your own projects or virtualenvs.
- To move your personally installed modules from python 3.7 (Fedora 31) to python 3.9, you can follow the description given [in the Fedora 33 release notes](#)
- GCC (C, C++, Fortran) is at version 10 now
- Wayland: the official Fedora release notes have a lot of information about Wayland, a replacement for the X11 graphics system. We don't use Wayland at this time, since it doesn't yet support many features that are needed in our type of work (remote graphics, VNC, various scientific programs, ...). So you can ignore all that is written about Wayland in the documentation.
- LibreOffice has been upgraded to version 7.0 with lots of improvements and new features. See [Release notes](#)
- Fedora has earlyOOM enabled, a background process that monitors for Out-of-Memory conditions, and attempts to kill the offending processes before the system comes to a grinding halt. Hopefully, this will mean there will be less system crashes (out-of-memory is one of the biggest reasons for Linux desktop crashes nowadays)
- FlexiBLAS is an intermediate interface to the BLAS and LAPACK libraries, making it possible to switch between various implementations of these libraries. The downside is, that you will need to recompile programs that are linked with BLAS or LAPACK (including private copies of numpy!)
- Removed software:
  - various programs that were written in python2, and not yet converted to python3:
    - gonvert
    - pdfshuffler
    - uniconvertor
  - Revelation password manager (no longer maintained, see [https://bugzilla.redhat.com/show\\_bug.cgi?id=1765902](https://bugzilla.redhat.com/show_bug.cgi?id=1765902) also for method of migrating to the keepass or keepassxc password managers)
  - PhotoPrint (last release was 8 years ago, no longer compatible with current libraries)
  - scite program editor. however, some much more capable program editors are available, eg anjuta, geany, codeblocks and others.
  - ggobi visualization software (last release 2010, no longer compatible with current libraries)
  - speedcrunch calculator (one of the very many calculator apps installed)
  - cmyktool tool for converting color profiles of images (last release 2011, no longer compiles)
  - Several obsolete or unlicensed gstreamer media plugins have been removed
  - Several compatibility libraries were dropped. These were libraries to run programs built with very old versions of the GNU compilers (gcc 3.3, 3.4 and 4.1). If you still have binaries from > 10 years ago, recompiling might be advisable.
  - Due to the removal of some of these very old compatibility libraries, Adobe Reader (acroread) will no longer work; please use a native Linux pdf viewer, such as atril or evince.
- Renamed/replaced software
  - Python module asciitable is now part of astropy, at `astropy.io.ascii` (see <http://cxc.harvard.edu/contrib/asciitable/>)
  - Similarly, pyfits is now `astro.io.fits`
- The Flash plugin is still part of Google Chrome, but no longer provided as a firefox plugin. Google plans on dropping support soon, so don't count on it any longer.

- Java is now available in 3 versions: The last freely obtainable Oracle Java 8.x release; OpenJDK 8 and OpenJDK 11.
- *saoimage is no longer maintained as a rpm package. for now, the last binary version still works. Please let us know if this (ancient) astronomical package is still in use.*

## CHECK FIXME Known issues in Fedora 31

- The Gnome desktop will not run on computers without hardware accelerated graphics. If you want Gnome on these machines, choose "Gnome X11" or "Gnome fallback" from the menu on the login screen.
- VNC issues: Desktop environments that require hardware acceleration (3D desktop effects) are too heavy to be used inside a virtual desktop (VNC, X2GO). See [VNC desktop issues](#) for details and workarounds.
- TeX package `psfig`, which has been obsolete for a long time, has now almost completely stopped working. Converting documents to newer packages such as `graphics` or `graphicx` is recommended, and is usually easy.
- ~~Solved: the current version of Python package [tensorflow](#) seems to work fine now with any version of python 3, making installation much easier~~
- Gnome doesn't display *notification area* aka *system tray* icons any more by default. The fix is, to enable the `topicons` plus extension: open `gnome-tweaks`, and go to extensions to do that. After that, the icons such as status icons of dropbox, skype etc, will be in your top panel.
- Applications using the "pango" text rendering engine (including Gnome, Cinnamon and MATE desktops) will no longer support bitmap fonts. If an application looks strange, you may have to select a different font for it (seen on terminal emulators, emacs with non-standard settings, possibly other applications)
- Mono (.NET compatible framework) has been updated to version 5. This may require rebuilding Mono apps.
- ~~Bleachbit (file cleaner) works, but seems to display wrong icons: the "search" icon is grayed out, but is available for clicking, and the "clean" icon to start cleaning, shows as a grayed out x, so might be mistaken for an abort icon. The help text shown when the mouse is over the icon, shows the right description for each task. (fixed in update)~~
- ~~Solved: Quota reporting is currently not working (solved as long as users use supplied alias)~~
- `hdfview` fails some(?) files. [Known bug](#) unfortunately no known solution yet.  
there are many other programs available that can work with HDF5 files, e.g. `R`, `vitables` or `veusz`
- The `clipit` clipboard app that is a default part of Gnome, Cinnamon and MATE desktops, sometimes hangs, which blocks all cut, copy and paste actions. Exit the app by right-clicking on the icon (which looks like a clipboard), and choose the quit action. If this happens a lot to you, you might want to disable the app in your startup applications preferences.

## Some general observations and tips

- Gnome 3. Gnome 3 is a completely different desktop design, which makes the desktop look and behave a bit like a Tablet PC. Some people may like it, but if you don't, "Mate" is available as an alternative, to give you the experience of good old Gnome 2, or "Cinnamon", for a more desktop-like version of the new Gnome, or try "Gnome Classic".  
[More on Gnome 3](#)
- Gnome applications: in every new release, more Gnome applications are rewritten in the style of the Gnome 3 desktop. This means: a separate application menu, displayed Mac-style in the

top bar on the Gnome desktop, or under the application icon in other desktops, the most important actions displayed as buttons, and everything else in a menu at the top right in the application window.

See [desktop applications](#) for a table listing alternatives, in case you cannot get used to the new look.

- Cinnamon desktop tweaks: While Cinnamon is based on (and compatible with) Gnome 3, there are separate tools for its customization, eg, if you want to modify the programs that start in each session, use cinnamon-session-properties for that (also available from the settings overview).

[More on Cinnamon](#) or see the list of available [desktop applications](#)

- Programs that start with each session: A lot of programs are started by default in each desktop session. many of them are unnecessary; some of them are annoying or can cause problems. users can disable everything they don't need.

[More on session tweaking](#)

- The command `pmount` can be used to mount removable media (cdrom,dvd,usb-disks) from the commandline. E.g.: `pmount /dev/cdrom` mounts the cd/dvd as `/media/cdrom`.
- Intel compilers: The Intel compilers (ifort,icc) are not enabled by default. The latest freely available version is 10.1, which can be loaded using `module load intel`. However, for most code, the GNU compilers are better than these old Intel compiler versions. (if you read that the Intel compiler has speed benefits, this probably refers to the very expensive current version, which we cannot install on a system-wide basis, or you are reading an obsolete webpage; the GNU compilers have gained significant speed of the last couple of years).

If you really need the current Intel compilers, find funding, and be prepared to have a license locked to a single computer. Intel also provides personal free student licenses. As personal license, we cannot install it for you, unfortunately.

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