



GNOME FOUNDATION

2018–2019 ANNUAL REPORT

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CREDITS

Thank you to everyone involved in the making of this report! We appreciate the authors, editors, and organizers that helped highlight all the great work GNOME accomplished in the 2018-2019 fiscal year.

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LETTER FROM THE GNOME FOUNDATION



NEIL MCGOVERN

Executive Director

2019 was an exciting year for us! We increased the Foundation's staff with three new employees—a GTK+ core developer, a Program Coordinator, and a Strategic Initiatives Manager—expanded our efforts with new projects, and continued making great software. We had three wildly successful conferences, several hackfests, and a number of newcomer events geared towards helping new contributors get involved in GNOME. We sponsored three amazing Outreachy interns and mentored nine students through Google Summer of Code. There were numerous technical successes: updates to GTK, two new releases of the desktop environment, and numerous infrastructure improvements, including both hardware and software upgrades. We introduced an Inclusion and Diversity team in order to make the GNOME community a more welcoming place. We announced the GNOME Community Engagement Challenge. We had speakers and booths at conferences in Asia, Europe, North America, and South America.

The year was not without challenges. August brought with it allegations of patent infringement from Rothschild Imaging, Ltd. Rather than settling or backing down, we are taking this fight as far as we have to in order to say that patent trolls have no place in free software. This effort is something we'll be carrying forward into the coming year.

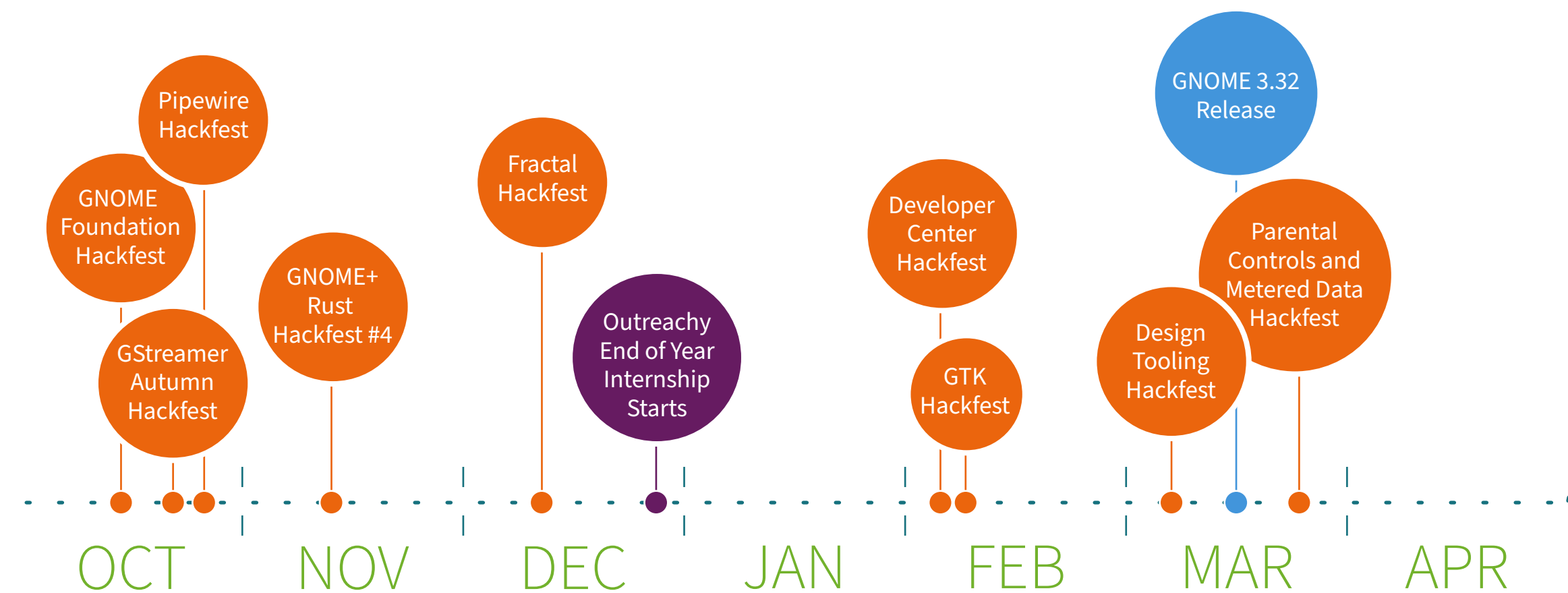
Looking ahead to 2020, we already have many activities and initiatives shaping up into what promises to be a busy and fruitful year. The GNOME Community Engagement Challenge will be launching in spring with the goal of creating tools to train new coders how to contribute to open source projects. We are expanding our accessibility efforts, planning an accessibility audit, and making plans for updates to the Orca screen reader. We are already planning GUADEC 2020 and GNOME.Asia, there will be more hackfests and newcomer events, intern and mentorship opportunities, and constant efforts to work on, for, and with the community. We'll do all of this while upholding the standards of technical excellence you have come to expect from the GNOME project, building software for people of every country with every level of ability.

As I write this at the end of 2019, the world is realizing more than ever how integral computers are to our professional and personal lives. More people are working from home than ever before, students are learning exclusively online, and people are connecting deeply with one another using their computers and mobile devices as the medium. At GNOME, our mission has always been to build software that works for users, with their interest and well being as the most important principal of development. We all need user freedom built into every piece of technology we are using, and at GNOME we are doing just that.

ABOUT GNOME

The GNOME Foundation is a non-profit organization that works to support the GNOME project. Together we create a computing platform, composed entirely of free software, that is designed to be elegant, efficient, and easy to use.

To achieve this goal, the Foundation coordinates releases and determines what software to include in these releases. The Foundation provides the infrastructure necessary to building a technical project, including email services, hosting servers, and software for collaboration. The Foundation acts as an official voice for the GNOME project, providing a means of communication with the community, media, and commercial and noncommercial organizations interested in GNOME software. The Foundation produces educational materials and documentation to help the public learn about GNOME software. In addition, it sponsors and helps organize GNOME-related conferences, such as GUADEC, GNOME.Asia and the Pan African GNOME Summit; represents GNOME at relevant conferences sponsored by others; helps create technical standards for the project; and promotes the use and development of GNOME software.



RELEASES

GNOME is released twice a year, in March and in October. We have maintained this release cadence since 2002. A reliable schedule is an important aspect of a successful project. It keeps the project on track and helps teams (e.g. translators, documentation writers, designers, testers, developers) coordinate their work. Outside parties also rely on our release schedule as many Linux distributions schedule their releases to align with ours.

The Release Team is tasked with defining the contents of the release, setting and communicating the release schedule, coordinating with other teams that are involved in the release process, and making the actual releases.

GNOME's releases are named after the host locations of GNOME conferences. This year's releases were Taipei (3.32), which brought a theme refresh and received positive reviews for performance improvements, and Thessaloniki (3.34), which had improvements in many applications and additional performance work. Thessaloniki also saw the return of our beloved release video, after a brief hiatus.

One of the highlights from 2019 was releasing the GNOME Flatpak runtime. We are excited to have VM images again as we previously did with GNOME Continuous. We also initiated an effort to build and publish nightly applications directly out of the CI system.

Chat with the Release Team in #release-team on GIMPnet (IRC) to learn more about any of these topics.



ACCESSIBILITY

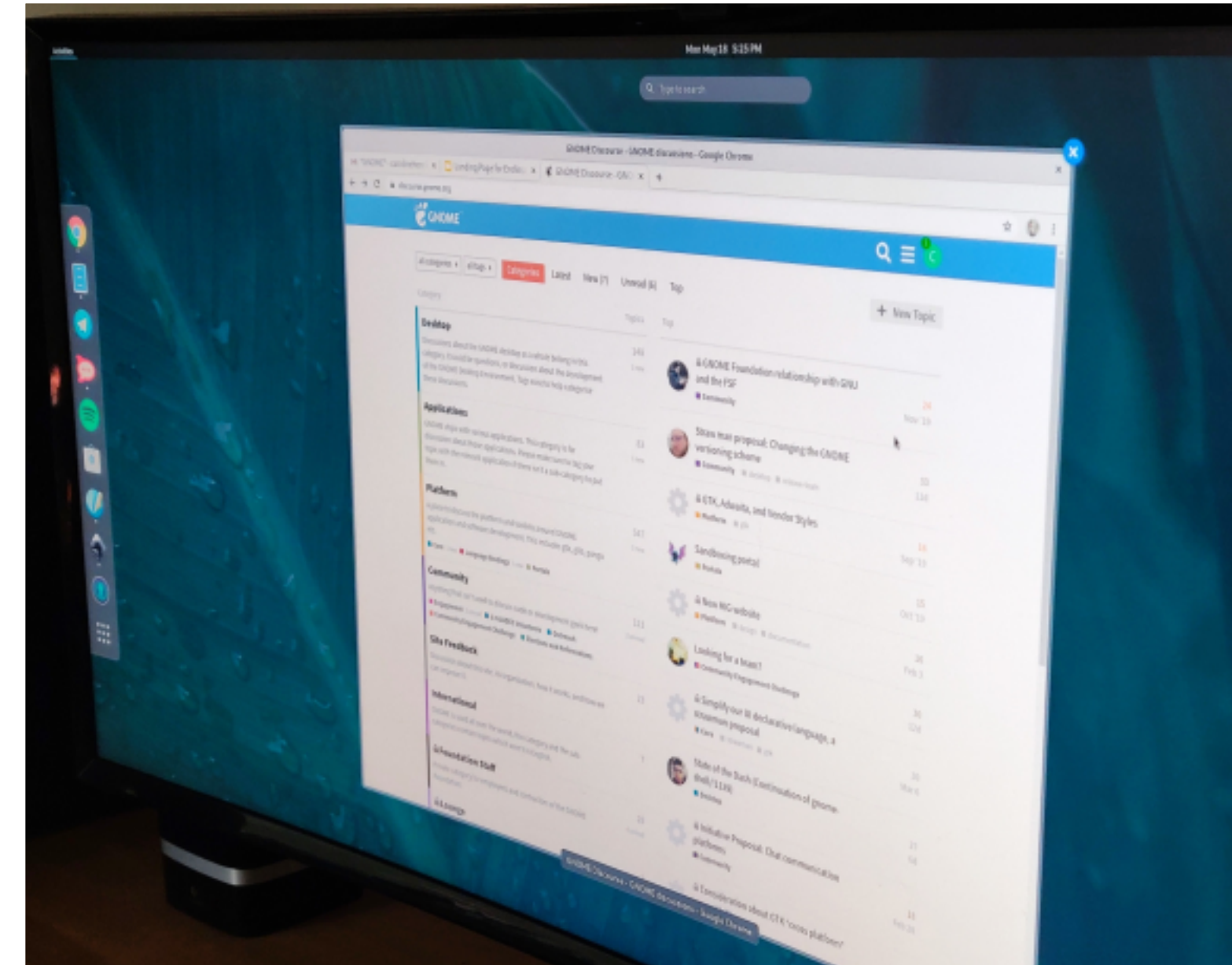
The Accessibility Team has been working hard with the support and collaboration of users over the past year.

Most notably, initial Chrome/Chromium support began in Orca in version 3.32 and continued throughout version 3.34. Likewise, the Accessibility Toolkit (ATK) support in Chromium was heavily improved. New ARIA support was added to ATK and AT-SPI2, improving the accessibility of web browsers overall.

AT-SPI2, a protocol through which widgets can provide their content to Orca and other screen readers, has received attention, gaining new features that help with automated accessibility testing, and is now able to work with dbus-broker.

The Orca community reported issues with popular software like Mozilla Firefox, Thunderbird, LibreOffice, GNOME apps, and GNOME Shell, most of which were fixed. Additionally, Orca's Speech Synthesis Markup Language (SSML) support was improved, notification support was added, allowing Orca to tell screen magnifiers the progress of speech synthesis, and ATK received a new scrolling API to make sure that the text being spoken is actually visible on the screen.

Other notable changes from 2019 include: the accessibility feature "Pointer Location", which highlights the mouse cursor on the screen when the Ctrl key is pressed, has been updated to now work under Wayland sessions; ATK has much better interoperability with Rust and improved Java support; and Orca's Mouse Review, a feature that allows Orca to present the object under the mouse pointer, has received a substantial amount of attention, adding improved presentation of text underneath the mouse cursor, improved logic for filtering out irrelevant mouse movements, and many other improvements.



500
Registered
Users

70
Posts
Per Day

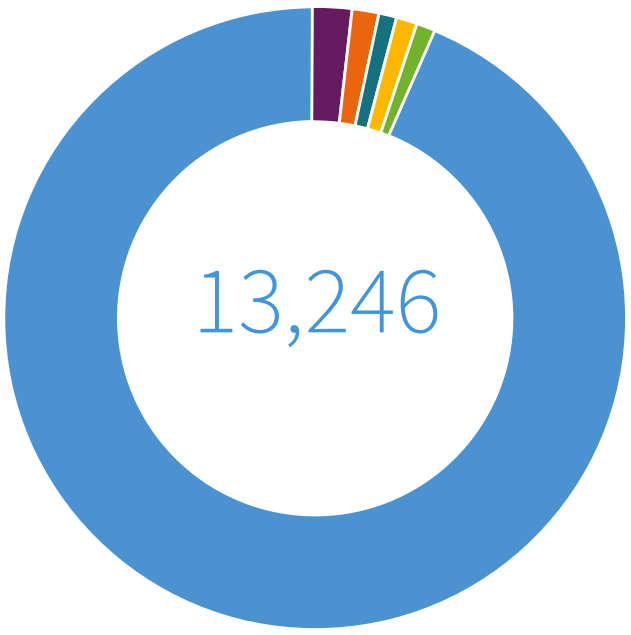
GNOME MOVES TO DISCOURSE

From developer collaboration to user support, release announcements to project-wide collaboration, GNOME has been using mailing lists since 1997. Thanks to the Foundation's increase in funding, GNOME finally had the resources to identify, test, and deploy a replacement for various mailing lists in the form of Discourse, a free web forum software.

Many parts of GNOME have started using Discourse: applications like Builder and Nautilus; teams like Engagement and GUADEC; user groups across the world; and the Foundation staff and Board of Directors.

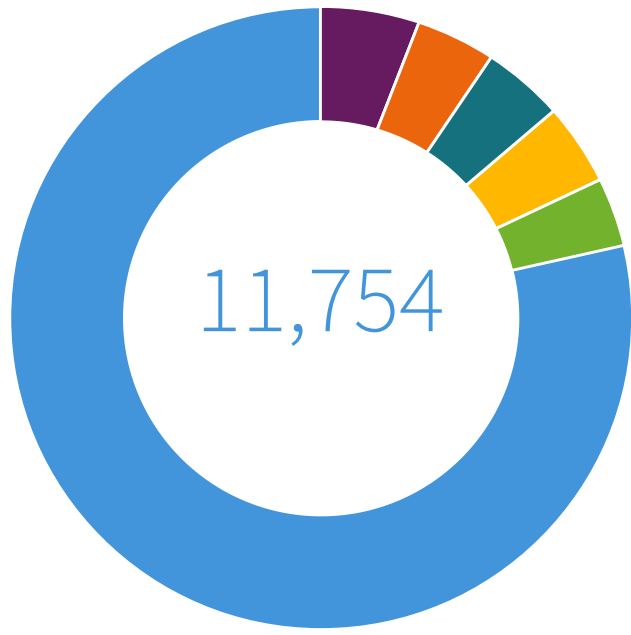
GITLAB STATISTICS AND ACTIVITY

ISSUES OPENED



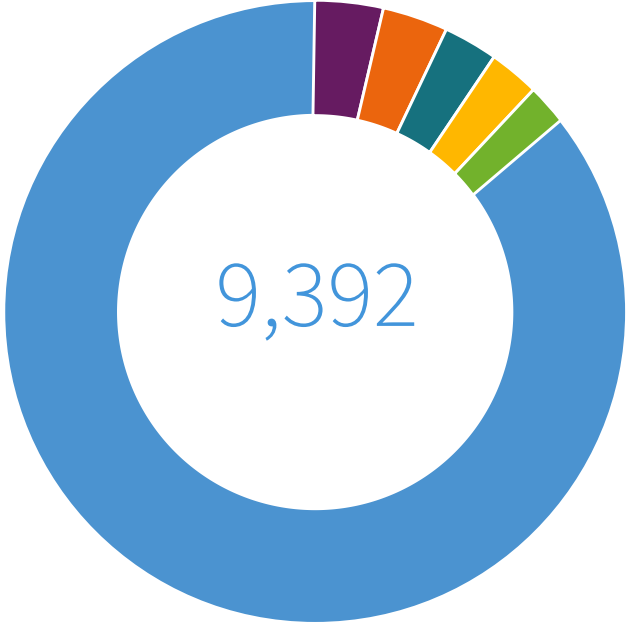
- Top Five
- Michael Catanzaro
 - Дилян Палаузов
 - Bastien Nocera
 - Tomasz Kłoczko
 - Raffaele

ISSUES CLOSED



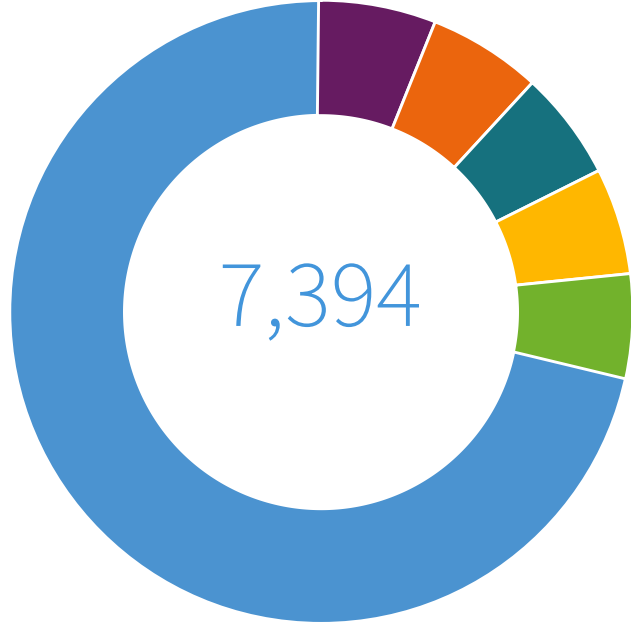
- Top Five
- Michael Catanzaro
 - Michael Natterer
 - Matthias Clasen
 - Andre Klapper
 - Milan Crha

MERGE REQUESTS OPENED



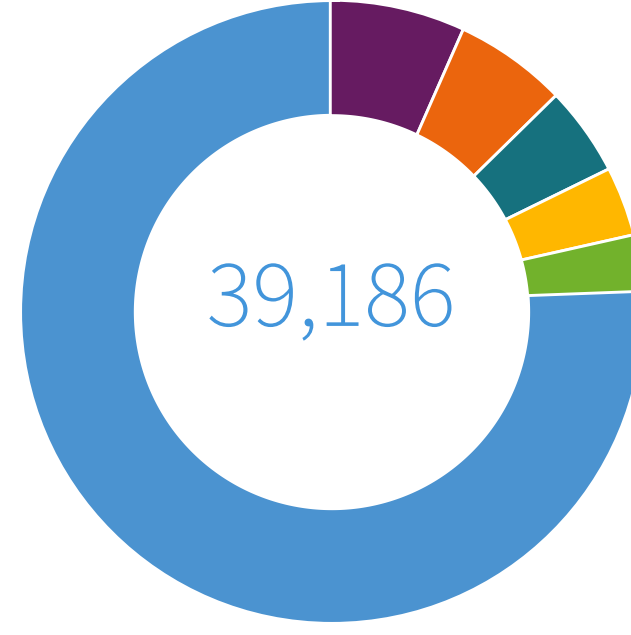
- Top Five
- Philip Withnall
 - Florian Müllner
 - Matthias Clasen
 - Michael Catanzaro
 - Bastien Nocera

MERGE REQUESTS MERGED



- Top Five
- Matthias Clasen
 - Georges Basile Stavrakas Neto
 - Florian Müllner
 - Michael Catanzaro
 - Philip Withnall

MERGE REQUEST COMMENTS



- Top Five
- Philip Withnall
 - Michael Catanzaro
 - Jonas Ådahl
 - Georges Basile Stavrakas Neto
 - Florian Müllner

HACKFESTS

13

GNOME Foundation Hackfest
1 [Cambridge, United Kingdom | 17–19 October 2018](#)

GStreamer Autumn Hackfest #4
2 [Edinburgh, Scotland, United Kingdom | 27–28 October 2018](#)

Pipewire Hackfest 2018
3 [Edinburgh, Scotland, United Kingdom | 29–31 October 2018](#)

GNOME+Rust Hackfest #4
4 [Thessaloniki, Greece | 15–18 November 2018](#)

Fractal Hackfest December
5 [Seville, Spain | 11–14 December 2018](#)

Developer Center Hackfest
6 [Brussels, Belgium | 4–5 February 2019](#)

GTK Hackfest
7 [Brussels, Belgium | 4–6 February 2019](#)

Design Tooling Hackfest
8 [Berlin, Germany | 7–9 March 2019](#)

Parental Controls and Metered Data Hackfest
9 [London, United Kingdom | 18–21 March 2019](#)

GNOME+Rust Hackfest #5
10 [Berlin, Germany | 09–12 May 2019](#)

GStreamer Spring Hackfest
11 [Oslo, Norway | 25–26 May 2019](#)

GNOME Photos Hackfest
12 [Saarbrücken, Germany | 29 May–2 June 2019](#)

West Coast Hackfest
13 [Portland, Oregon, USA | 18–21 July 2019](#)

CONFERENCES

The GNOME Foundation assisted in organizing three major conferences in 2019, GUADEC, GNOME.Asia, and the Linux Application Summit along with KDE.

GUADEC 2019 took place in Thessaloniki, Greece, at the University of Macedonia. Sessions covered technical topics, future plans, and general free software related issues. Included in the 48 talks were keynotes by Dr. Luis Falcon, from GNU Health, and Deb Nicholson, from the Software Freedom Conservancy. There were also two days of workshops and Birds of a Feather sessions to discuss shared interests.

GUADEC also hosted the Annual General Meeting, where members of the GNOME Foundation voted on proposals including extending the term of Board Members and changing language in official documentation to be more inclusive.



This year's Pants Award was presented to Carlos Garnacho for his years of contribution to the GNOME project.

FINANCES AT A GLANCE

The GNOME Foundation fiscal year 2019 ran from October 1st, 2018 to September 30th, 2019.
Foreign currencies are converted to USD.

INCOME

The income for FY2019 exceeded our projections. Advisory Board fees were increased. One time donations increased more than expected while monthly subscription income stayed flat. Conference income does not include a currently unknown liability for taxes, to be paid at a future point.

2018



2019



Income	2018	2019
Administrative Fees	\$6,135	\$962
Advisory Board	\$138,750	\$153,500
Conferences	\$92,012	\$98,818
Donations	\$823,412	\$632,914
Events	\$1,092	\$392
Internships	\$11,700	\$7,700
Interest	\$696	\$19,810
Other		\$1,551
Total	\$1,073,797	\$915,646

FINANCES AT A GLANCE

Continued

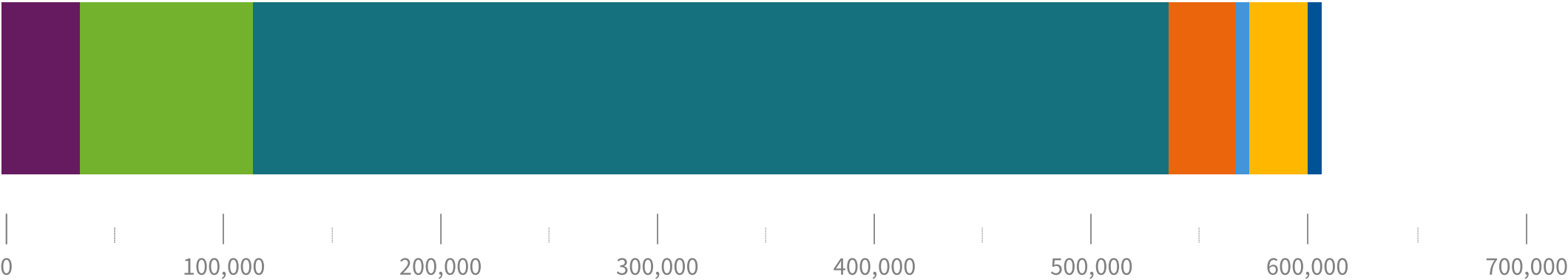
EXPENSE

While we did spend more than projected in some areas, there was a large discrepancy between projected and actual amounts spent on employees due to a shift in the hiring schedule. The increase in expenditure for internships resulted from using restricted funds on a privacy internship as well as increasing the number of Outreachy internships.

2018



2019



Expenses	2018	2019
Administrative	\$29,567	\$36,622
Conferences	\$64,013	\$79,368
Employees	\$223,623	\$421,908
Events	\$31,107	\$29,986
Marketing	\$4,562	\$6,418
Internships	\$13,000	\$27,500
Other		\$6,531
Total	\$365,872	\$608,374

OUTREACH

GOOGLE SUMMER OF CODE

Sajeer Ahamed Riyaf

Project: Converting GStreamer plugins to Rust
Mentor: Sebastian Dröge

Andrei Lișiță

Project: Saved States Manager for GNOME Games
Mentor: Alexander Mikhaylenko

Xiang Fan

Project: gtk4-rs: GTK 4 Rust Bindings
Mentor: Jordan Petridis

Stefanos Dimos

Project: Polari—Preview Links
Mentor: Florian Müllner

Mayank Sharma

Project: Improve Google-Drive support for GVfs
Mentor: Ondřej Holý

Ravgeet Dhillon

Project: Rework the GTK Website
Mentor: Emmanuele Bassi

Sumaid Syed

Project: GNOME Music: Full stack MusicBrainz integration
Mentor: Jean Felder

Gaurav Agrawal

Project: Implement side by side diff view in Gitg
Mentor: Alberto Fanjul Alonso

Srestha Srivastava

Project: Improve GNOME Boxes express-installations by adding support to tree-based installations
Mentor: Felipe Borges

OUTREACHY

Teja Cetinski

Project: Create Gtranslator initial integration with Damned Lies
Mentor: Daniel García Moreno

Clarissa Lima Borges

Project: GNOME Usability Testing
Mentor: Jim Hall

Maira Kodama

Project: Extend Fractal media viewer with video support and explore video conference
Mentor: Daniel García Moreno

FRIENDS OF GNOME

Our operating budget consists of a combination of donations, sponsorships, and membership fees from Advisory Board members. Donations totaled approximately \$489,500, and sponsorships \$73,500. Advisory Board memberships were approximately \$135,500. The Advisory Board consists of organizations whose communities, developers, and users have a stake in the future of the GNOME Project. It currently includes Canonical, Debian, The Document Foundation, Endless, Free Software Foundation, Google, Private Internet Access, Red Hat, sugarlabs, SUSE, and System 76. If you are interested in joining the Advisory Board, please contact director@gnome.org.

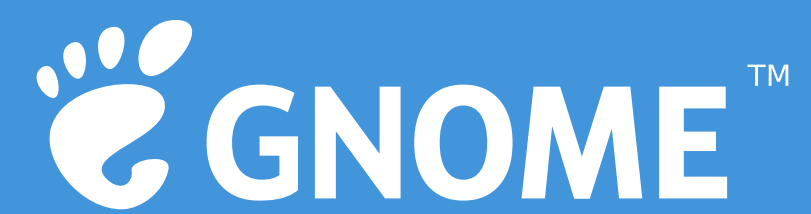
As part of our response to a patent lawsuit levied against the GNOME Foundation we held an open call for donations specifically in support of fighting not just the lawsuit, but the idea that patents have any place in free and open-source software. Thanks to the hard work on the community, we raised well over \$100,000 with around 3,000 donors.

In 2019 we began a redesign of our Friends of GNOME program, which will carry forward into 2020.

We would like to thank all of our one-time donors and the Friends of GNOME, who support our work on an ongoing basis.

ADVISORY BOARD

The logo for Canonical, featuring the word "CANONICAL" in a purple, sans-serif font with a circular icon containing a dot.The logo for Debian, featuring a red swirl icon followed by the word "debian" in a lowercase, black, sans-serif font.The logo for The Document Foundation, featuring a black document icon followed by the text "The Document Foundation" in a black, sans-serif font.The logo for Endless, featuring an orange infinity symbol followed by the word "ENDLESS" in a black, sans-serif font.The logo for the Free Software Foundation, featuring a red stylized "FSF" icon followed by the text "FREE SOFTWARE FOUNDATION" in a red, sans-serif font.The logo for Google, featuring the word "Google" in its characteristic multi-colored font.The logo for Private Internet Access, featuring a green robot icon followed by the text "privateinternetaccess" and "always use protection" in a black, sans-serif font.The logo for Red Hat, featuring a red hat icon followed by the text "Red Hat" in a black, sans-serif font.The logo for Sugarlabs, featuring the word "sugarlabs" in a lowercase, black, sans-serif font with a green underline under "sugar".The logo for SUSE, featuring a green chameleon icon followed by the word "SUSE" in a blue, sans-serif font.The logo for System 76, featuring the text "system76" in a lowercase, black, sans-serif font with a yellow underline under "76".



gnome.org

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 @gnome@floss.social