

Non-programmer view on Guix

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2022

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Introduction

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Road to free software

Mac OS → Ubuntu MATE → Emacs + WM → Manjaro → Guix

Guix package manager

Pros

- Easy to install on any distro
- Can complement or replace the native package manager

Cons

- Building large programs can fail on weak hardware
- Many software packages are not available in Guix

Guix system distribution

Pros

- System configuration is fun and simple
- Systems can be replicated from the base config

Cons

- Need to depend on other package managers
- Some more advance configuration is difficult to get into

Guix home

Pros

- Should complement system configuration perfectly
- Easy to init

Cons

- Tendency to get back to usual management of dotfiles
- Some concepts are not clear

Malleable systems

1. Software must be as easy to change as it is to use it
2. All layers, from the user interface through functionality to the data within, must support arbitrary recombination and reuse in new environments
3. Tools should strive to be easy to begin working with but still have lots of open-ended potential
4. People of all experience levels must be able to retain ownership and control
5. Recombined workflows and experiences must be freely sharable with others
6. Modifying a system should happen in the context of use, rather than through some separate development toolchain and skill set
7. Computing should be a thoughtfully crafted, fun, and empowering experience

Compartmentalized systems

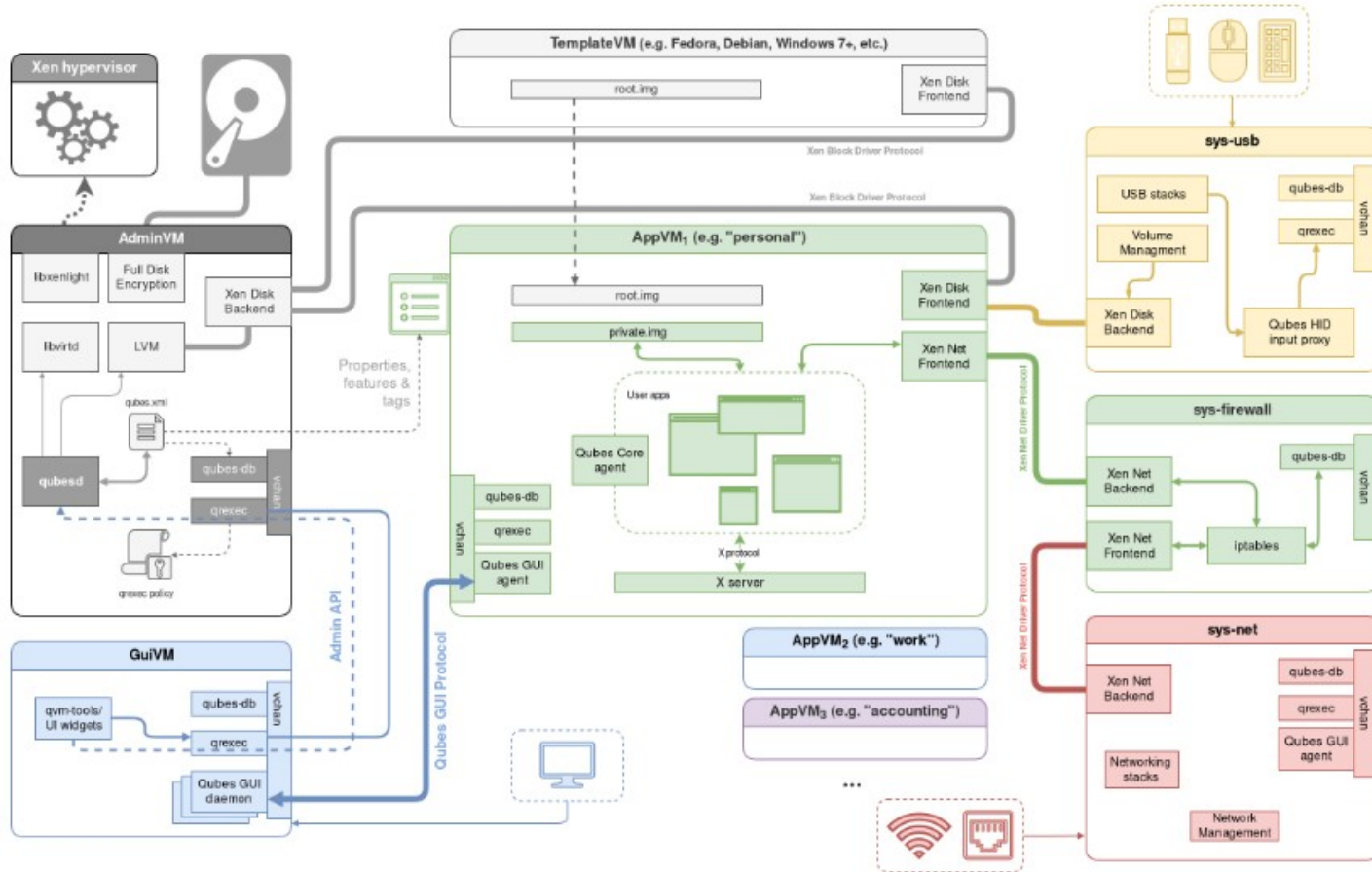
Qubes OS

- Xen hypervisor
- Isolated filesystems
- Fedora images

Spectrum OS

- Using Nix images
- Shared filesystem
- Per-app isolation

Compartmentalized systems



Context-defined virtual environments

Lightweight Guix images

Emacs

WM tools

Browser

Derivative ideas

- **Self-hosted desktop container streaming**
- **Collaboration workspaces**
- **P2P network for Org mode based hypermedia**
- **Federated network for communities and SMEs**
- **No-code/low-code system configuration**

Conclusion

- **Guix is very promising technology**
- **Needs to get more user friendly**
- **Needs more practical use cases for regular users**

Thank you