The background of the entire page is a repeating pattern of 3D cubes in various shades of blue, creating a textured, geometric effect. The text is centered in the middle of the page.

GNOME FOUNDATION

2020–2021 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 2020-2021 fiscal year.

Matthias Clasen, Caroline Henriksen, Neil McGovern, Bartłomiej Piotrowski, Kristi Proгри, Oliver Propst, and Rosanna Yuen.

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



NEIL MCGOVERN

Executive Director

Last year, I wrote that we were facing unprecedented challenges. In hindsight, this is probably one of the largest understatements I've made in my career. No one has been untouched by the effects of COVID-19. And yet, despite the difficulties we've all faced, GNOME has continued to gain users. We have continued to spread user freedoms. We make the software millions of people use.

We believe in a world where everyone is empowered by technology they can trust; and today, more than ever, people are reliant on software for their day-to-day lives. Our vision—our goal—must be to bring this reality to fruition. And we will do this by building a diverse and sustainable free software personal computing ecosystem.

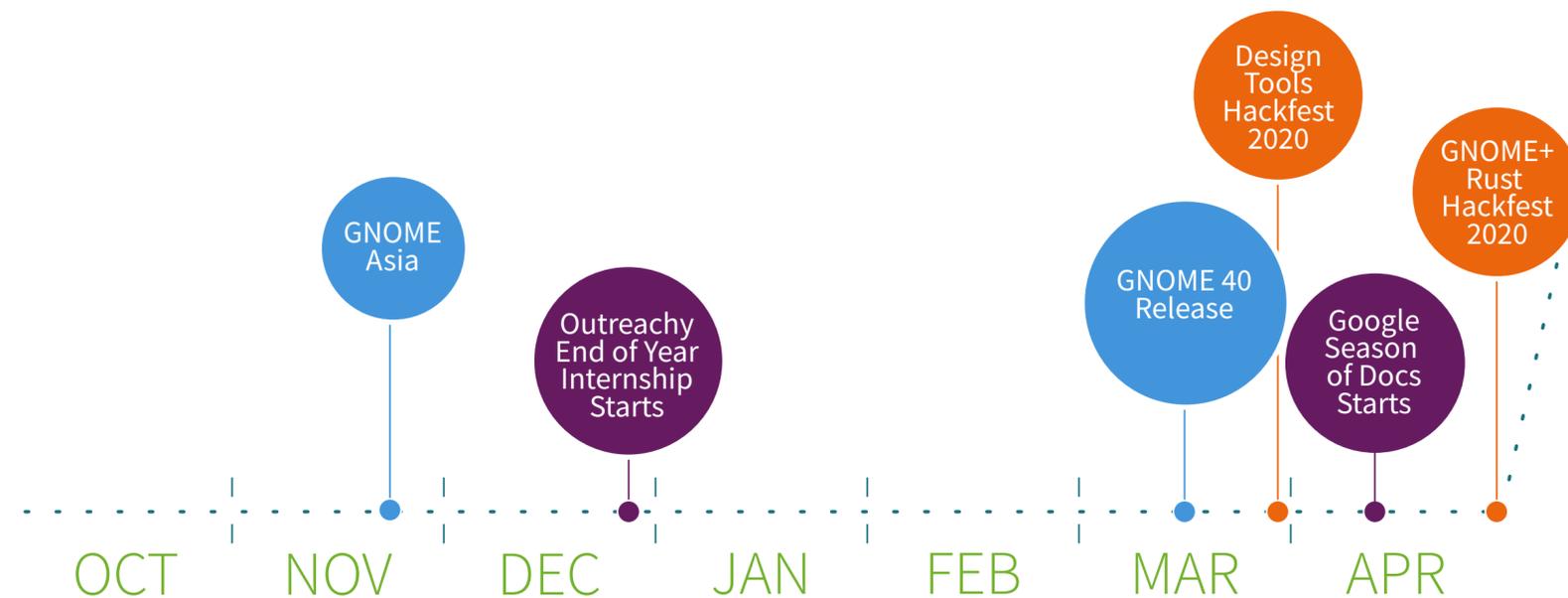
In March 2021, we saw the release of GNOME 40, one of the most talked about changes since the release of GNOME 3.0 ten years ago. I'm particularly proud of the changes that were made—we did not simply release what we always have—we questioned our assumptions. We tested these against real-world users. We found real people doing real tasks in real scenarios and watched how people use computing. We must always be driven by data and our drive to bring digital agency to our users.

As we approach the end of 2021, I cannot help but feel hope for our community, our users, and the world in general. I predict over the next year we shall see a return to some aspects of the world we left behind in 2020. A world where we can meet our friends at GUADEC. A world where we can collaborate both virtually and in person. A world where software freedoms are delivered to people who now, more than ever, rely on them for their everyday lives. Together, we can—and will—go further.

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 major Linux distributions schedule their releases to align with ours.

The Release Team has been tasked by the GNOME Board 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.

A major change for our releases this year was the introduction of a new versioning scheme, with alpha, beta, and rc releases during the development cycle, and stable releases that are numbered sequentially: 40, 41, and so on.

GNOME 40 was the first release following this new scheme. It featured a completely redesigned Activities Overview, and improvements to some core applications. The second release this year, GNOME 41, included an improved Software app, new multitasking settings, and enhanced power management features.

Besides the major new releases, the release team has continued to provide regular, stable updates all the way through 3.38.9 and 40.9.

A notable improvement to the build infrastructure are mirrors for upstream tarballs, which help make our builds more reliable.

We are continuing to follow our new versioning in the next year, with a GNOME 42 release in March of 2022 and GNOME 43 in October.



HACKFESTS



Design Tools Hackfest 2020

Remote | [24–27 March 2020](#)

Rust+GNOME Hackfest 2020

Remote | [30 April–3 May 2020](#)

Rust <3 GNOME Hackfest 2021

Remote | [10–11 April 2021](#)

EVENTS

GNOME.ASIA

GNOME.ASIA Summit is the featured annual GNOME conference in Asia. It focuses primarily on the GNOME desktop, but also covers applications and platform development tools. GNOME.ASIA brings together the GNOME community in Asia to provide a forum for users, developers, foundation leaders, governments and businesses to discuss the present technology and future developments.

Due to the pandemic GNOME.ASIA 2020 was held online from the 24th-26th of November. Following our learnings from moving GUADEC 2020 online, we used GNOME-run instances of Indico, for registration and scheduling, and Big Blue Button, for hosting and streaming presentations remotely.

This year’s conference featured two keynote speakers, Prof. Ir. Ts. Dr R Badlishah Ahmad, with his presentation “Free and Open Source Softwares Implementation at Universiti Malaysia Perlis” on day 1, and GNOME Board of Director president, Robert McQueen with his presentation “Access to Freedom” on day 2. After the talks we held two social events, a live music performance and a cooking class lead by Amyza Mad Zin.

With over 180 registrations, it’s safe to say our first remote GNOME.Asia was a hit!



EVENTS

GUADEC

GUADEC was held remotely once again in this year, taking place from 21st–25th of July. For the 2021 conference we continued to make use of events.gnome.org, our Indico-based event platform, to handle everything from call for participation, to registration and scheduling. We hosted all presentations on meet.gnome.org, our instance of Big Blue Button.

This year we again benefited from a host of amazing speakers presenting remotely, some of whom may not have been able to attend if it were in-person. We had over 40 speakers covering a wide range of talks and in particular highlighting our 2021 theme of Future-Proofing FOSS. GNOME is always anticipating the future and looking to innovate, whether it's with events, technologies, or ways to empower users and integrate free and open source software into our lives. We looked for our GUADEC 2021 talk proposals to align with this idea and consider how we could continue innovating and pushing the future of FOSS through software, technology, and community building. Supporting this theme we had two outstanding keynote speakers, Shauna Gordon-McKeon, who spoke about Refashioning Freedom, and Hong Phuc Dang, presenting on Solving world problems with open technologies.

With another year of remote conferences well underway, we were mindful of our attendees time spent on screen for GUADEC 2022. We shortened our core days to two days of talks, followed by two days of BoFs and Workshops, and brought back our GUADEC tradition of a final day social activity or free group work time. But that doesn't mean the 25th was our only social time! We embodied the spirit of our in-person conferences with a full schedule of post-talk social events including a guided wine tasting, cooking with long-time GNOME Sriram Ramkrishna, and a virtual tour of Zacatecas, Mexico.

GUADEC 2021 saw over 400 registrations, showing again that a remote conference allows more of our global community to join the conference live. While we hope to be able to return in-person events in the next year, we have learned that our contributors appreciate the opportunity to attend GUADEC remotely and we will continue to find more ways to facilitate that.



FINANCES AT A GLANCE

The GNOME Foundation fiscal year 2021 ran from October 1st, 2020 through September 30th, 2021.
Foreign currencies are converted to USD.

INCOME

The income for 2021 was a bit higher than projected. While down significantly from 2020, that was to be expected as 2021 did not have any high stakes events and the pandemic did not allow for many in-person events.

2020



2021



Income	2020	2021
Administrative Fees	\$1,292	\$1,476
Advisory Board	\$103,500	\$103,500
Conferences	\$45,640	\$63,333
Donations	\$759,233	\$84,720
Events	\$390	\$0
Internships	\$8,000	\$5,800
Interest	\$6,194	\$1,846
Other	\$939	\$26,033
Total	\$925,189	\$286,708

FINANCES AT A GLANCE

Continued

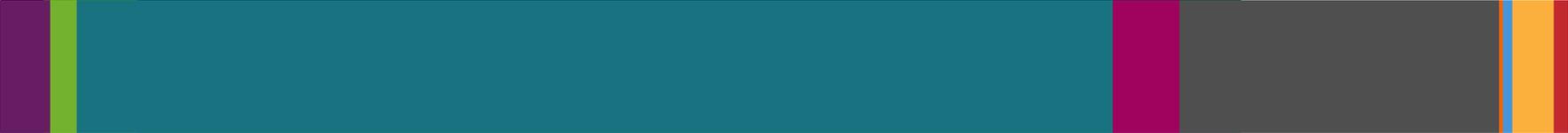
EXPENSE

While we spent less money in 2021 for conferences and other in-person events, we had directed funds that needed to be spent on specific programming items like the community challenge. Reduced staffing mid-year led to a slight decrease for staff spending for the year.

2020



2021



Expenses	2020	2021
Administrative	\$23,747	\$30,035
Conferences	\$56,863	\$13,994
Staff	\$614,466	\$614,466
Board Costs	\$2,984	\$40,000
Other Programing	\$55,792	\$187,080
Events	\$19,480	\$1,878
Marketing	\$6,499	\$5,553
Internships	\$13,000	\$26,000
Other	\$6,205	\$7,815
Total	\$829,812	\$926,821

OUTREACH

GOOGLE SUMMER OF CODE

Abanoub Ghadban

Project: tracker: Improve custom ontology support
Mentor: Carlos Garnacho

Alejandro Domínguez

Project: Fractal: Multi account support
Mentor: Daniel Garcia Moreno

Arijit Kundu

Project: Develop the Faces of GNOME projects
Mentor: Claudio Wunder

Dhanuka Warusadura

Project: libsecret: extend file backend to use TPM2 derived encryption keys
Mentor: Daiki Ueno

Ivan Molodetskikh

Project: Shell: update screenshot and screen recorder
Mentor: Jonas Dreßle

Kai A. Hiller

Project: Fractal Next Feature parity
Mentor: Julian Sparber

Kavan Mevada

Project: Redesigning Health's MainView
Mentors: Rasmus Thomsen

Manuel Genovés

Project: Libadwaita animation API
Mentors: Alexander Mikhaylenko

Maximiliano Sandoval

Project: Design tooling: port to GTK 4
Mentors: Bilal Elmoussaoui

Nishal Kulkarni

Project: Implement active resource management in GNOME
Mentor: Benjamin Berg

Nishit Patel

Project: Tracker-miners: File creation time
Mentor: Sam Thursfield

Visvesh Subramanian

Project: GNOME Shell: Notification Popover Redesign
Mentor: Florian Müllner

zbrown

Project: Shell: Implementing Layout Managers in Rust
Mentor: Iordanis Petridis

OUTREACHY

Amanda Shafack

Project: Complete Gtranslator integration with Damned Lies
Mentor: Daniel García Moreno

Mantoh Nasah Kuma

Project: Improve the Debugging Experience in GNOME's JavaScript Engine
Mentor: Philip Chimento

ADVISORY BOARD

The GNOME Advisory Board members are representatives of organizations and companies that support GNOME and have an interest in the future of the project. While the Advisory Board does not have decision-making authority for the GNOME Foundation, its members communicate with the Board of Directors and help the Directors guide the overall direction of GNOME and the GNOME Foundation.

The Board meets twice a year, in the summer and the winter. The aim of these meetings is to:

- Understand the Advisory Board's needs, and express them to the community.
- Express the community's needs to the Advisory Board, especially when it's something they can help with.
- Get feedback from the Advisory Board on our plans.
- Provide a space for Advisory Board members to discuss their GNOME-related work with one another.

The 2020-2021 Advisory Board includes Canonical, Debian, The Document Foundation, Endless, Google, Red Hat, sugarlabs, SUSE, and System76. We are always looking for new organizations that have a stake in the future of GNOME development who are interested in participating in the Advisory Board. If you would like to join, please contact director@gnome.org.

CANONICAL

 **debian**

 The Document Foundation

 ENDLESS

Google

 **Red Hat**

sugarlabs

 **SUSE**

system76



foundation.gnome.org

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 r/gnome

 @gnome@floss.social