

## Re: Can't X be eleminated?

**Source:** <http://linux.derkeiler.com/Mailing-Lists/Kernel/2003-09/7826.html>

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**From:** J.A. Magallon ([jamagallon\\_at\\_able.es](mailto:jamagallon_at_able.es))

**Date:** 09/30/03

Date: Tue, 30 Sep 2003 23:51:57 +0200  
To: Krishna Akella <[akellak@onid.orst.edu](mailto:akellak@onid.orst.edu)>

On 09.30, Krishna Akella wrote:

- > *Definitely, having the kernel support the GUI features is bad idea IMHO.*
- > *but, What X lacks is a `_standard_` toolkit, `_complete_` widgetset for developers.*
- > *We have*
- > *acrobat using Motif distributed along with the reader, xfig "needing"*
- > *preinstalled Motif, Xaw using Athena, Gnome apps using gtk, KDE apps using*
- > *QT... and so on. Moreover, there is no standard interface for*
- > *communication between these apps using myriad toolkits. And all of this is*
- > *a duplication of effort that can be totally avoided.*
- >
- > *As an app programmer, one is always faced with the question, "which*
- > *toolkit do I use?". And there is never an easy answer. I guess its high*
- > *time for ppl to realize this. If any thing, this is definitely one thing*
- > *thats slowing down the acceptance of Linux as a Desktop OS.*
- >

You can even choose a toolkit that goes beyond Linux:

<http://www.gimp.org/~tml/gimp/win32/downloads.html>

<http://www.sun.com/software/star/gnome/>

<http://www.software.hp.com/products/GNOME/>

And the same happens with Qt, I suppose.

Nowadays motif is used just for portability between Linux and other systems, like IRIX or HPUX,

but it looks like the 'other' are moving to Gnome or KDE. So in a few years acrobat will use gtk or qt, many oldies like xfig will be superceded by new apps, and you real standards will be GTK and Qt.

And about interoperability, take a look at:

<http://freedesktop.org/>

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J.A. Magallon <jamagallon\(\)able!es>      \           Software is like sex:
werewolf!able!es                               \           It's better when it's free
Mandrake Linux release 9.2 (Cooker) for i586
Linux 2.4.23-pre5-jam1 (gcc 3.3.1 (Mandrake Linux 9.2 3.3.1-2mdk))
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Re: Can't X be eleminated?

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