NAME

gnome-session − Start the GNOME desktop environment

SYNOPSIS

gnome-session [−a|−−autostart=DIR] [−−session=SESSION] [−−failsafe|−f] [−−debug] [−−whale]

DESCRIPTION

The *gnome-session* program starts up the GNOME desktop environment. This command is typically executed by your login manager (either gdm, xdm, or from your X startup scripts). It will load either your saved session, or it will provide a default session for the user as defined by the system administrator (or the default GNOME installation on your system).

The default session is defined in **gnome.session**, a .desktop-like file that is looked for in **$XDG_CONFIG_HOME/gnome-session/sessions**, **$XDG_CONFIG_DIRS/gnome-session/sessions** and **$XDG_DATA_DIRS/gnome-session/sessions**.

When saving a session, *gnome-session* saves the currently running applications in the **$XDG_CONFIG_HOME/gnome-session/saved-session** directory.

gnome-session is an X11R6 session manager. It can manage GNOME applications as well as any X11R6 SM compliant application.

OPTIONS

The following options are supported:

--autostart=DIR
> Start all applications defined in *DIR*, instead of starting the applications defined in **gnome.session**, or via the *--session* option. Multiple *--autostart* options can be passed.

--session=SESSION
> Use the applications defined in **SESSION.session**. If not specified, **gnome.session** will be used.

--failsafe
> Run in fail-safe mode. User-specified applications will not be started.

--debug
> Enable debugging code.

--whale Show the fail whale in a dialog for debugging it.

SESSION DEFINITION

Sessions are defined in **.session** files, that are using a .desktop-like format, with the following keys in the **GNOME Session** group:

Name Name of the session. This can be localized.

RequiredComponents
> List of component identifiers (desktop files) that are required by the session. The required components will always run in the session.

Here is an example of a session definition:

```
[GNOME Session]
Name=GNOME
RequiredComponents=gnome-shell;gnome-settings-daemon;
```

The **.session** files are looked for in **$XDG_CONFIG_HOME/gnome-session/sessions**, **$XDG_CONFIG_DIRS/gnome-session/sessions** and **$XDG_DATA_DIRS/gnome-session/sessions**.

ENVIRONMENT

gnome-session sets several environment variables for the use of its child processes:

SESSION_MANAGER
> This variable is used by session-manager aware clients to contact gnome-session.

DISPLAY

This variable is set to the X display being used by *gnome-session*. Note that if the *--display* option is used this might be different from the setting of the environment variable when gnome-session is invoked.

FILES

$XDG_CONFIG_HOME/config/autostart   **$XDG_CONFIG_DIRS/config/autostart**
/usr/share/gnome/autostart

The applications defined in those directories will be started on login. *gnome-session-properties(1)* can be used to easily configure them.

$XDG_CONFIG_HOME/gnome-session/sessions   **$XDG_CONFIG_DIRS/gnome-session/sessions**
$XDG_DATA_DIRS/gnome-session/sessions

These directories contain the **.session** files that can be used with the *--session* option.

$XDG_CONFIG_HOME/gnome-session/saved-session

This directory contains the list of applications of the saved session.

BUGS

If you find bugs in the *gnome-session* program, please report these on https://bugzilla.gnome.org.

SEE ALSO

gnome-session-properties(1) gnome-session-quit(1)