Before we start, let’s get this out of the way because the week long delirium on social media has dragged enough.

Yes, libadwaita ?hardcodes? Adwaita. Yes, applications, as is, will not be following a custom system theme. Yes this does improve the default behavior of application for GNOME when run on other platforms like Elementary OS. However, this is was the result of a technical limitation, and not some evil plot as Twitter will keep telling you?

The reason is that in order for High Contrast (and the upcoming Dark Style) to work, libadwaita needs to override the theme name property so it doesn’t fallback to GTK’s Default High Contrast style. The Default style is an older version of Adwaita, not your system style.

Compared to GTK 3, there isn’t a new way to enforce the hardcoded? style. The GTK_THEME variable still works, as does gtk.css and probably 3 other ways of doing this. Likewise, if you are developing a distribution, you have control of the end product and can do anything you want with the code. There is a plethora of options available.
Apparently complaining on social media and bullying volunteers into submission was one such option?

And I guess this also needs to be stated: this change only affects apps that choose to use libadwaita and adopt the GNOME Design Guidelines, not every GTK 4 application.

As usual, the fact that the themes keep working doesn’t mean they are supported. The same issues about restyling applications when they don’t expect it apply and GNOME can not realistically support arbitrary stylesheets that none of the contributors develop against and test.

[2]

Source URL: http://www.tuxmachines.org/node/155790

Links: