

# Looking forward to GNOME 3.4

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Created 28/02/2012 - 10:15pm

Submitted by srlinuxx on Tuesday 28th of February 2012 10:15:09 PM Filed under [Software](#) [1]

The first beta of GNOME 3.4 came out at the tail end of last week, which means that we are roughly on track for a final release at the end of March. The beta also marks the beginning of the UI freeze for this cycle, so now seems like a good time to check out the cool stuff that's coming in 3.4.

The following are just the changes that I know about; I'm sure that there are plenty of others. There's no shortage of things to talk about though: the amount of improvement in recent GNOME releases has been really impressive, and this release looks like it will be no exception.

## Updated Applications

Applications are where many of the big changes can be found for this release. Documents and Contacts had their first releases in 3.2. Now they're back, and they're joined by Boxes too. All three of these new GNOME applications feature updated user interfaces, which is the outcome of the ongoing application design work that I discussed in my last blog post. We think they're better than what we had before; we hope you do too.

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