Conky Revisited

As I recently started using conky again I found my previous configurations to be something which were not efficient enough for my daily needs which are currently quite wide. In the end I decided to write a new conky configuration file which has some similarities to my previous releases. Furthermore this conky configuration at hand also serves as a stylish but yet powerful add-on for the Linux desktop, like the previous configurations did.

To get the configuration running as it appears in the screenshot install the following programs as root or sudo

*conky
*lxmusic → Music player's gui frontend
*xmms2 → The actual music player
*gcal → A calendar program
*alsa-base alsa-utils → The sound information providers
#banshee → Another music player which may be left out if not desired.

In Ubuntu/Debian:
sudo apt-get install conky lxmusic xmms2 gcal alsa-base alsa-utils

The conky file has entries for banshee music player as well. They are by default commented out as the banshee is quite big by default and also has an additional requirement: it must be running at all times when it is combined with the conky. If the banshee is closed when conky is being run the conky will more than likely crash. Usually the best way to start the banshee is to run it as a hidden process during the system startup by adding the line

banshee --hide

to the respected autostart location depending on the system configuration.

If you however decide to use xmms2 and lxmusic then the previous problems with the banshee may be forgotten completely. Xmms2 and lxmusic work very well with the conky and you do not need to worry about autostarting anything extra.

The actual Conky config file

Copy and paste the entries starting from page 2 to a new hidden file called .conkyrc which is the default file of the conky. Once you are done copying and pasting then just issue **conky** command inside a terminal client to verify that everything works. If you want to autostart conky during every system startup just add an entry called **conky** to your startup file. If you use a conky file which is not named as .conkyrc adjust the config file path with a *conky -c* variable. For example: **conky -c myconfigfile**

If you have any problems with the conky starting too early then add some sleeping time for it as follows: (sleep 5 && conky) &

The & mark at the end may be omitted in some desktops like Gnome3. The number 5 in the example above means the number of seconds the program is “sleeping” before it is starting up. Now it is time for the actual configuration file. See below for further details. **Note:** consider changing wlan0 to eth0 or eth1 if you are using wired network connection instead of wireless.

```
#This conky config was composed by JJ Posti from techtimejourney.net . The lisence is GPL.
#  Window rules

alignment top_right
gap_x 30
gap_y 20
minimum_size 220 0
maximum_width 1850
own_window yes
own_window_hints below,skip_pager,skip_taskbar,undecorated,sticky
# font defaults:
use_xft yes
xftfont DejaVu Sans Mono:size=12
xftalpha 0.9
override_utf8_locale yes
own_window_type override
own_window_transparent yes

## images, buffering, shading
imlib_cache_size 60
double_buffer yes
draw_shades no
default_shade_color 777777
update_interval 0.1

## misc text formatting
short_units yes
pad_percents 0
border_inner_margin 0
uppercase no
use_spacer right

## outlines and borders
draw_outline no
draw_borders no
draw_graph_borders no
border_width 0

## stdout/console printing
out_to_ncurses no
out_to_console no

## process settings
top_name_width 5
#no_buffers yes

#### end config

#### Begin display information

TEXT
```

```
${hr 1}
$alignc Calendar
${hr 2}
${exec gcal –starting-day=monday | cut -c23-44 --complement}
${font :size=30}${time %H:%Mh}
${voffset -30}${font :bold:size=12}${time %d %b. %Y}
${font :bold:size=12}${time %A}

###System information###
${hr 1}
$alignc System
${hr 2}
$sysname $kernel $machine
${color white}UpTime:$uptime
${color white}Kern:$kernel

${color white}MEM:$memperc% $mem/$memmax
${color white}SWAP:$swapperc% $swap/$swapmax
${color white}ROOT:${fs_free /}/${fs_size /}
${color white}HOME:${fs_free /home}/${fs_size /home}
${color white}HDD:${fs_free /media/5488D87039562188}/${fs_size /media/5488D87039562188}
${color white}NET:
#IP address
IP address:${addr wlan0}
${color white}Up:${upspeed wlan0} k/s
${color white}Down:${downspeed wlan0}k/s${color}}

#Volume information (Plain text)
${hr 1}
$alignc Volume levels
${hr 2}
${execi 1  amixer -c 0 get Master | grep  Playback}
${hr 2}

#Xmms2/Lxmusic info
${hr 2}
$alignc Xmms2 music player
${hr 1}
${exec xmms2 current  | grep Playing}
Year:    ${exec xmms2 info | grep date | cut -c 23-50}
Album:  ${exec xmms2 info | grep album | cut -c 24-50}
Track:  ${exec xmms2 info | grep tracknr | cut -c 24-50}

#Banshee info
#${hr 2}
#$alignc Banshee music player
#${hr 1}
#${exec banshee --query-artist --query-album --query-title --query-track-number}
#${hr 2}
```