oslo-wall on CachyOS (KDE Plasma): test report

Tested 12 Oct 2026 · oslo-wall 2.0.13 (public installer) · CachyOS desktop ISO 260809 (sha256 verified), default install: KDE Plasma 6.7.5 on Wayland, btrfs, Limine, fish shell · VM: 4 vCPU, 6 GB RAM, virtio GPU without 3D acceleration · throwaway user "tester"

> **Verdict: partly works.** It installs cleanly, starts at login and the editor works, but **the wallpaper is not visible on Plasma**: it is drawn underneath Plasma's own desktop background. While hidden it still uses CPU and about 650 MB of RAM. It does not harm Plasma, and it can be removed completely (proof below).

What was tested

A fresh CachyOS install with every installer default, snapshotted as "clean". Before installing oslo-wall I recorded a full manifest: every file in the home folder (with hashes), every path under /etc, /usr, /opt and /var/lib/systemd, the hashes of /etc, the package list, and the user and system services. Then I installed oslo-wall with the public one-liner in Konsole, used it, rebooted, ran `oslowall update`, uninstalled it, rebooted, and compared everything against the manifest. CachyOS no longer ships a Plasma X11 session (only Wayland), so X11 was not tested. Multi-monitor was not tested.

Results

Check	Result
Installer (`curl … | bash` in fish)	**Works.** Verified the sha256, asked for the sudo password and installed 19 packages with pacman. It also added the fish PATH snippet, so `oslowall` works in CachyOS's default shell.
Wallpaper shows on the desktop	**No.** The service runs, but the picture stays hidden. It only appeared when I stopped plasmashell for a moment (screenshot 4).
Editor (app menu "Oslo Wall")	**Works.** It opens, the preview animates and settings apply live (Snow test). Small layout glitch: the Symbol grid spills out of its card at 1280×800. It shows "wallpaper running" even though nothing is visible.
Autostart after reboot	**Works.** The `oslo-wall.service` user unit started at login, but it stayed hidden.
Update (`oslowall update`)	**Works** ("2.0.13 is up to date"). There was no newer release to upgrade to.
Uninstall (`~/.local/share/oslo-wall/install.sh --uninstall`)	**Works, with leftovers** (see Clean removal).
Plasma stability	No plasmashell or KWin crashes, no core dumps, and no new errors in the journal. The panel, the desktop right-click menu, notifications and the app menu all worked normally.

Effect on the system

	Without oslo-wall	With oslo-wall (hidden)
Idle CPU, 3-minute average (4 vCPUs)	0.1 %	**64.6 %** (WebKit ≈ 2.6 cores)
RAM in use	1.29 GB	1.86 GB (the service uses about 650–700 MB)

The VM has no GPU acceleration, so WebKit renders in software. On a real GPU the CPU cost will be much lower, but it is still wasted work, because nothing is visible. Changes the install makes: files in `~/.local/share/oslo-wall`, `~/.local/bin/{oslowall,osw}`, `~/.config/oslo-wall`, a user systemd unit, an app-menu entry, PATH lines in `~/.profile`, `.bashrc`, `.zshrc` and fish, and **a new `~/.config/sway/config`** on a machine that has no sway. As root (sudo): **sway, swaybg, grim, seatd, webkit2gtk-4.1, gtk-layer-shell, inter-font and 12 libraries**, a new system group `seat`, and `/etc/sway/`. CachyOS's snapper made its usual automatic btrfs snapshots around each pacman run.

Problems found

- **Critical: invisible on Plasma.** oslo-wall uses a wlr-layer-shell surface on the BACKGROUND layer. KWin supports that protocol, but Plasma draws its own full-screen, opaque desktop window (wallpaper and icons) above that layer. Moving to the BOTTOM layer would cover the desktop icons, so that is not a fix. *Fix:* on KDE (`XDG_CURRENT_DESKTOP=KDE`), ship oslo-wall as a **Plasma wallpaper plugin**: a small QML package in `~/.local/share/plasma/wallpapers/` that loads `web/index.html` in a WebEngineView, switched on with a plasmashell scripting call. Until that exists, the installer should say "Plasma is not supported yet" and stop.

- **High: wastes resources while hidden.** *Fix:* on desktops where it cannot be shown, don't enable or start the service.
- **Medium: installs a whole sway desktop on KDE.** It adds sway, swaybg, grim, seatd, a `seat` group and a sway config. *Fix:* outside sway, install only `python-gobject webkit2gtk-4.1 gtk-layer-shell inter-font` and skip the sway hook.
- **Medium: the editor says "wallpaper running" when nothing is visible.** *Fix:* check that the surface is actually mapped, or warn on desktops it does not support.
- **Low: the uninstaller leaves traces, and there is no `oslowall uninstall` command** (details below). Also the Symbol grid overflow.

Clean removal

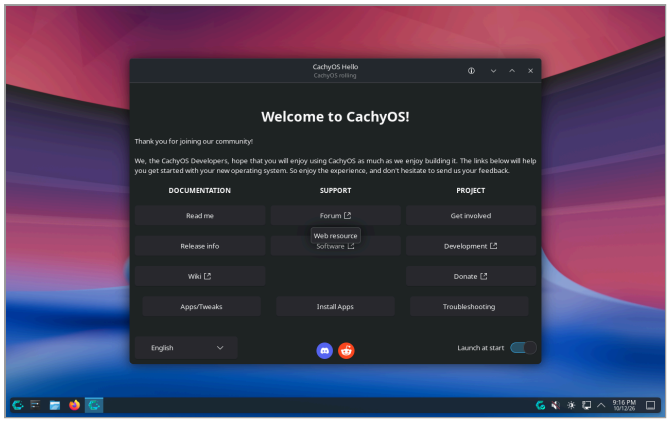
> **Everything oslo-wall touched can be removed, and I tested it.** After the uninstaller plus the commands below and a reboot, the full manifest diff against the clean snapshot came back empty: same packages, same services, same /etc (apart from the two automatic backup files `/etc/group-` and `/etc/gshadow-`), no oslo-wall processes, and no oslo-wall file anywhere on the disk (screenshot 10).

What the uninstaller removes: it stops the wallpaper and the editor, then removes the service, the app-menu entry, the app folder, the `oslowall` and `osw` commands, the sway block and the PATH lines. **What it leaves (honestly):** your settings in `~/.config/oslo-wall` (this is announced); cache and editor data in `~/.cache/oslo-wall`, `~/.cache/oslowall-gui` and `~/.local/share/oslowall-gui` (about 180 KB, not announced); the `~/.config/sway/config` it created; an empty `~/.profile`; a blank line at the end of `.bashrc` and `.zshrc`; empty folders; and all of the packages. *Fix needed:* delete the caches and the files it created itself, add `oslowall uninstall`, and record which packages it installed so it can offer to remove them. KDE's launcher still remembers the "oslo wall" search; that is ordinary KDE history and is harmless.

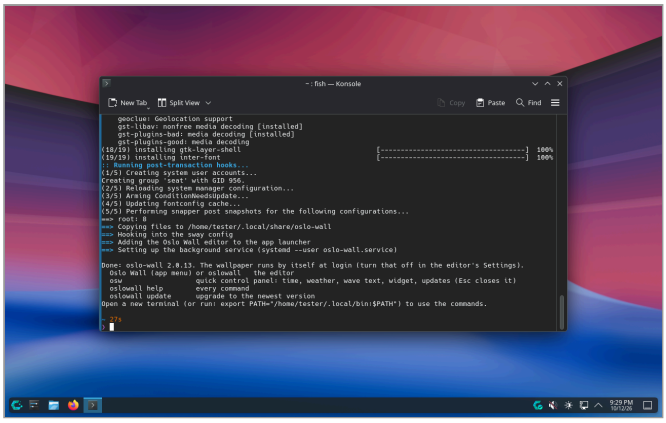
Remove everything by hand (after the uninstaller; skip the sway line if you use sway):

```
~/.local/share/oslo-wall/install.sh --uninstall
rm -rf ~/.config/oslo-wall ~/.cache/oslo-wall ~/.cache/oslowall-gui ~/.local/share/oslowall-gui
rm -rf ~/.config/sway
rmdir ~/.config/fish/conf.d ~/.config/systemd/user ~/.local/bin ~/.local/share/applications 2>/dev/null
[ -s ~/.profile ] || rm -f ~/.profile     # only if it is empty
sudo pacman -Rns sway swaybg grim gtk-layer-shell webkit2gtk-4.1 inter-font   # removes the 19 packages
sudo groupdel seat
```

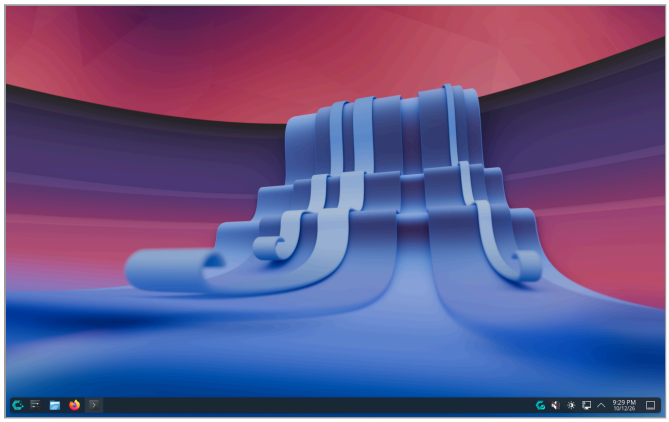
Screenshots



1. Clean CachyOS Plasma (Wayland) after install.



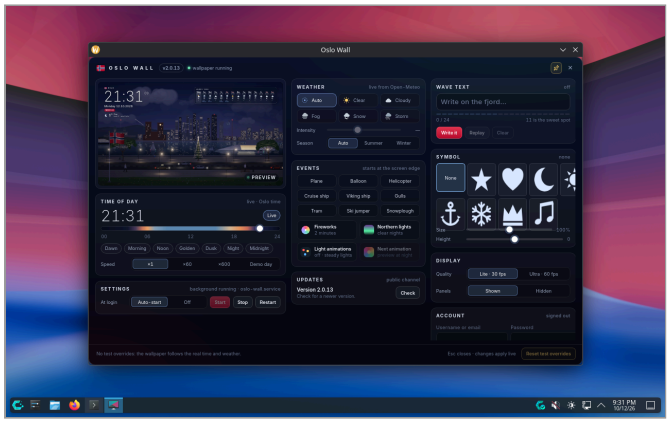
2. The public one-liner: packages installed, service set up.



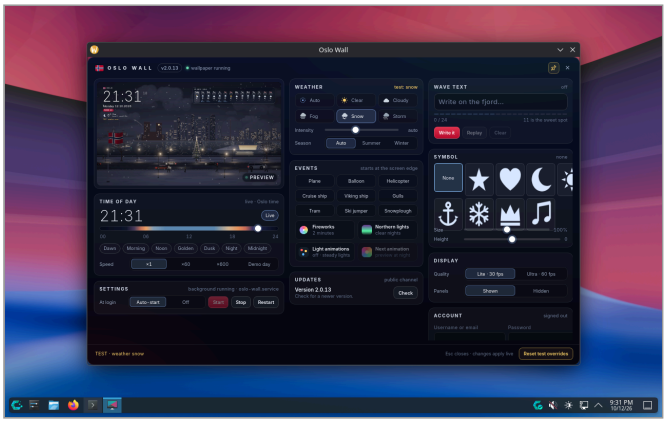
3. After install, with the service running: still Plasma's own wallpaper.



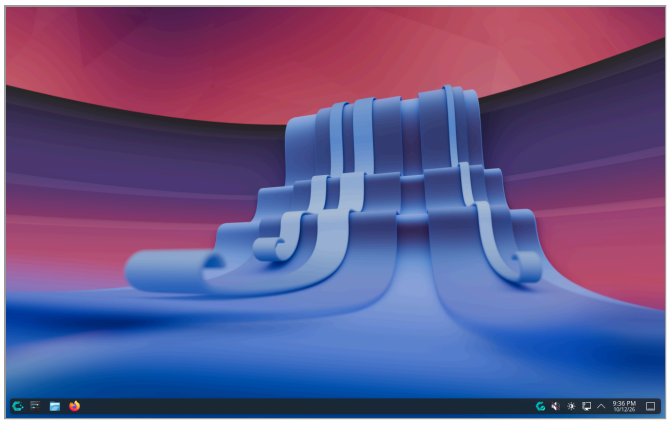
4. plasmashell stopped for a moment: oslo-wall was rendering underneath all along.



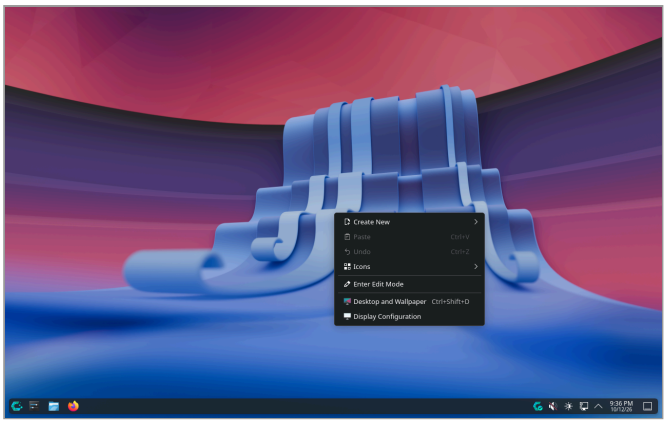
5. The editor works (note the Symbol grid overflow, top right).



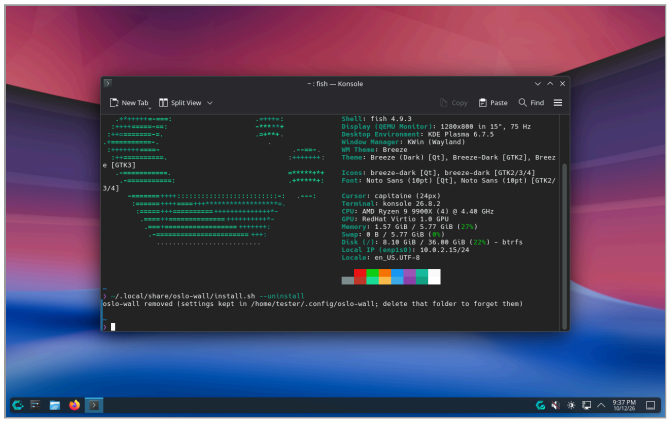
6. Settings apply live (Snow test).



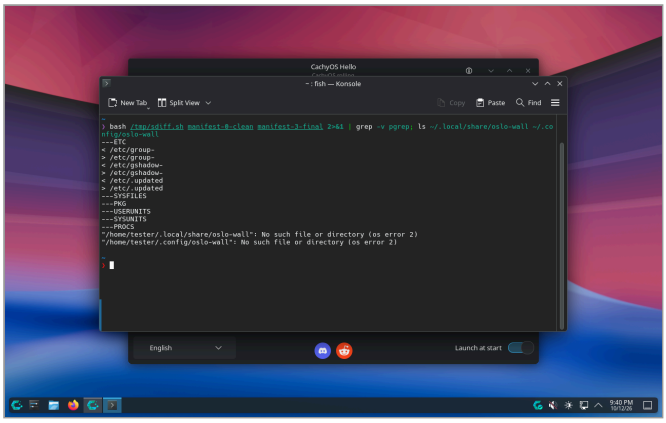
7. After a reboot the service autostarted, but the wallpaper is still hidden.



8. Desktop clicks and the panel are unaffected.



9. The uninstaller.



10. Final diff against the clean snapshot: no package, service or system-file differences, and no oslo-wall folders left.