

deepwiki Devin's (AI trained on XFCE code-base) feedback myself received.

Answer

With multiple Writer windows open, xfwm4's per-window geometry handling and session restoration are relevant:

- **Per-window saved geometry**: Each `Client` stores `saved_geometry` (x, y, width, height) and flags like `CLIENT_FLAG_RESTORE_SIZE_POS` to indicate whether to restore it [1](#1-0) [2](#1-1) .
- **Session save/restore**: xfwm4 writes each window's current and maximized geometry to session state and restores them on restart via `sessionMatchWinToSM`, which sets `c->width/height` and `saved_geometry` from the saved session data [3](#1-2) [4](#1-3) .
- **Gravity enforcement**: During reparenting, xfwm4 forces `win_gravity` to `NorthWest` to counteract LibreOffice's use of `StaticGravity`, which can otherwise cause misplacement on parent resizes [5](#1-4) .
- **Screen resize handling**: If LO's crash/recovery triggers rapid unmap/map cycles perceived as screen changes, `clientScreenResize` may reposition/resize windows to keep them visible, potentially resetting widths [6](#1-5) .

There is no xfwm4 feature that directly manages LibreOffice's sidebar width. The issue is likely LibreOffice misapplying per-window saved geometry on recovery, interacting with xfwm4's gravity workaround and session restoration.

Notes

- Session restoration explicitly restores both current and maximized geometries per window [3](#1-2) .
- The gravity workaround is a documented fix for LibreOffice `StaticGravity` bugs [7](#1-6) .
- If the issue persists, inspect LibreOffice's profile/session recovery for how it restores per-window UI layout (sidebar width) versus relying on window manager geometry.

Wiki pages you might want to explore:

- [Xfwm4 Window Manager Overview (xfce-mirror/xfwm4)](/wiki/xfce-mirror/xfwm4#1)

Citations of/references to XFCE4 source code follow.