

Ring GNOME Client Mock-ups



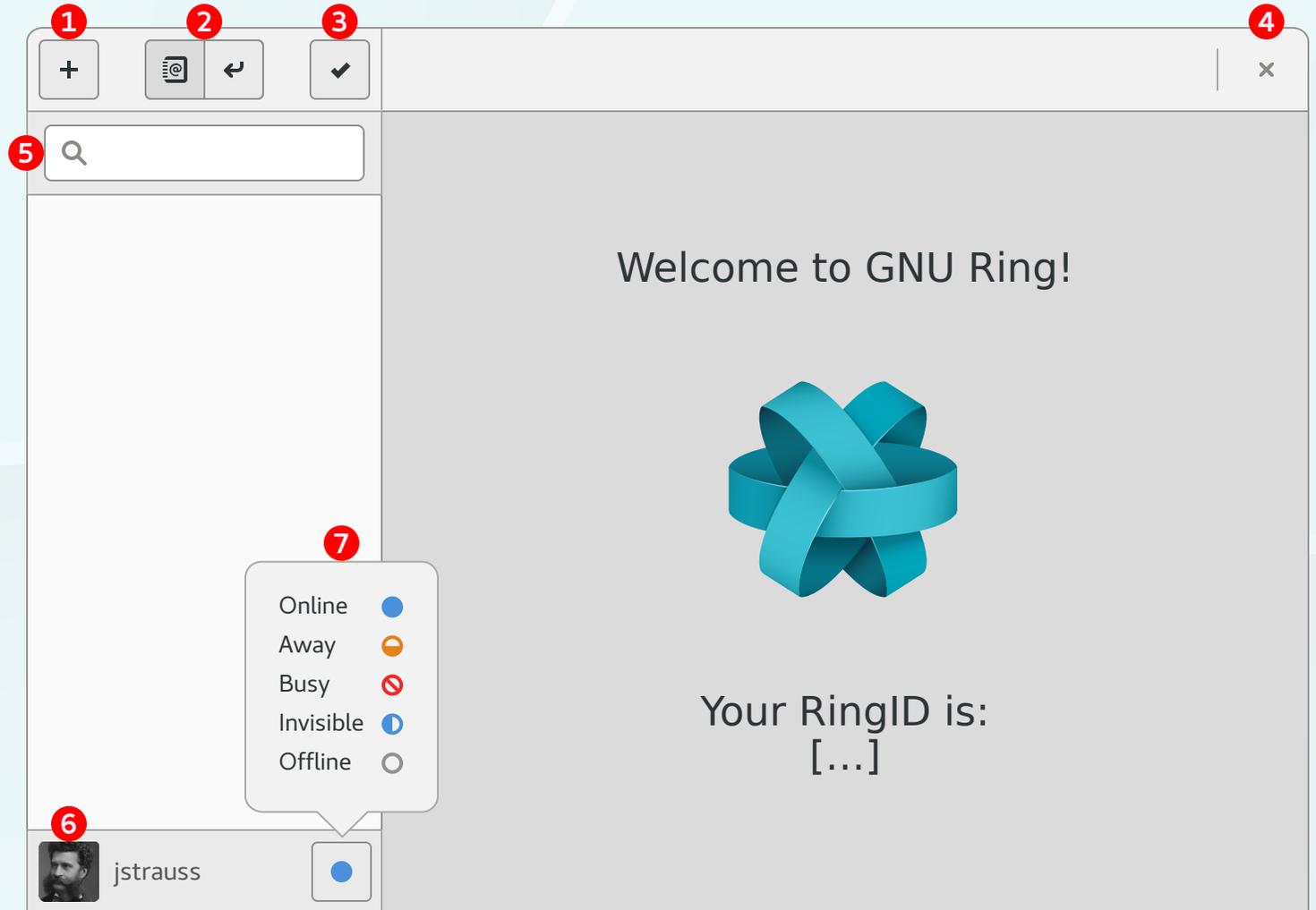
This document is meant to present some ideas and suggestions to the Ring development team, concerning changes to the look, layout, and possibly functionality of the GNOME client.

They are an attempt to make the client simpler, more elegant and more in-line with the look and feel of GNOME. They were created with attention to other GNOME apps, GNOME's Human Interface Guidelines, and the developer's current aims with Ring.

The main window

Main window shown to the user upon start. There is headerbar, sidebar, and the main view area.

1. Starts a new conversation, or adds a new contact. (See details later.)
2. Switches between “conversation view” and “contact request view”. The right half should light up on pending contact requests.
3. Toggles selection mode. (See details later.)
4. Closes the window. (Innovative!)
5. Filters conversations, allowing for quick searches. No longer used to add new contacts, for more clarity and less confusion. (Button “1” handles that now.)
6. The user bar: Profile picture, profile/account name, and presence status icon. The name can open a popover to change account in use. This can dynamically update the conversations above.
7. Opens popover to change presence status. The icons are sourced from **Tox**. Their unique shapes make them recognizable even for colour-blind users.



The conversation sidebar

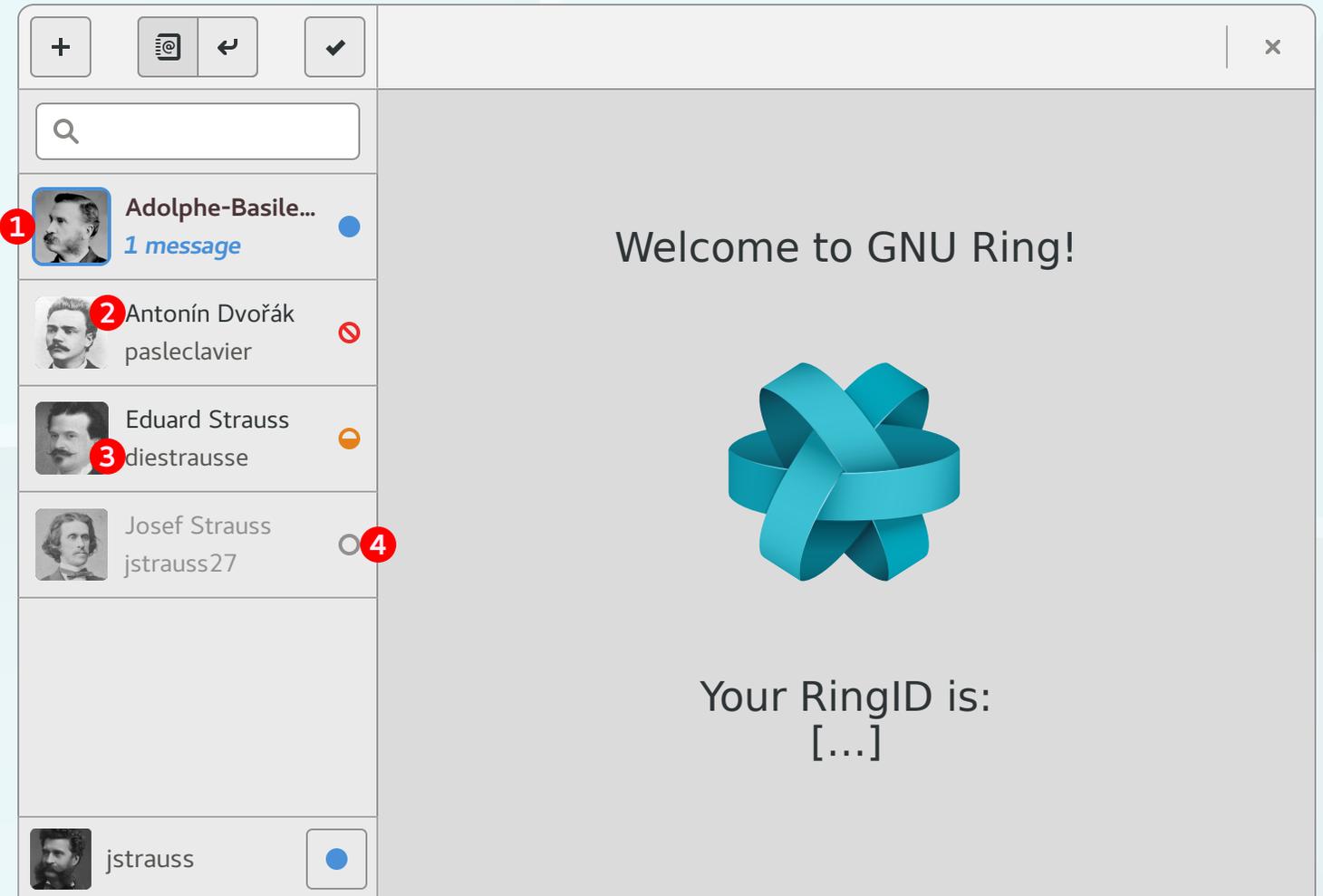
Conversation sidebar with several contacts/conversations being shown.

1. The profile picture. As opposed to circle shape, rounded square fits much better in GNOME, as it's being used everywhere else in GNOME. It also shows more content. Outline can be added on pending notifications.

2. Contact's most readable identifier. (Here: profile name.)

3. Contact's next most readable identifier. (Here: username.) Can be used to inform about pending notifications instead. (Here: message counter.)

4. Presence status icon. If the contact is offline, it can fade out as a whole.



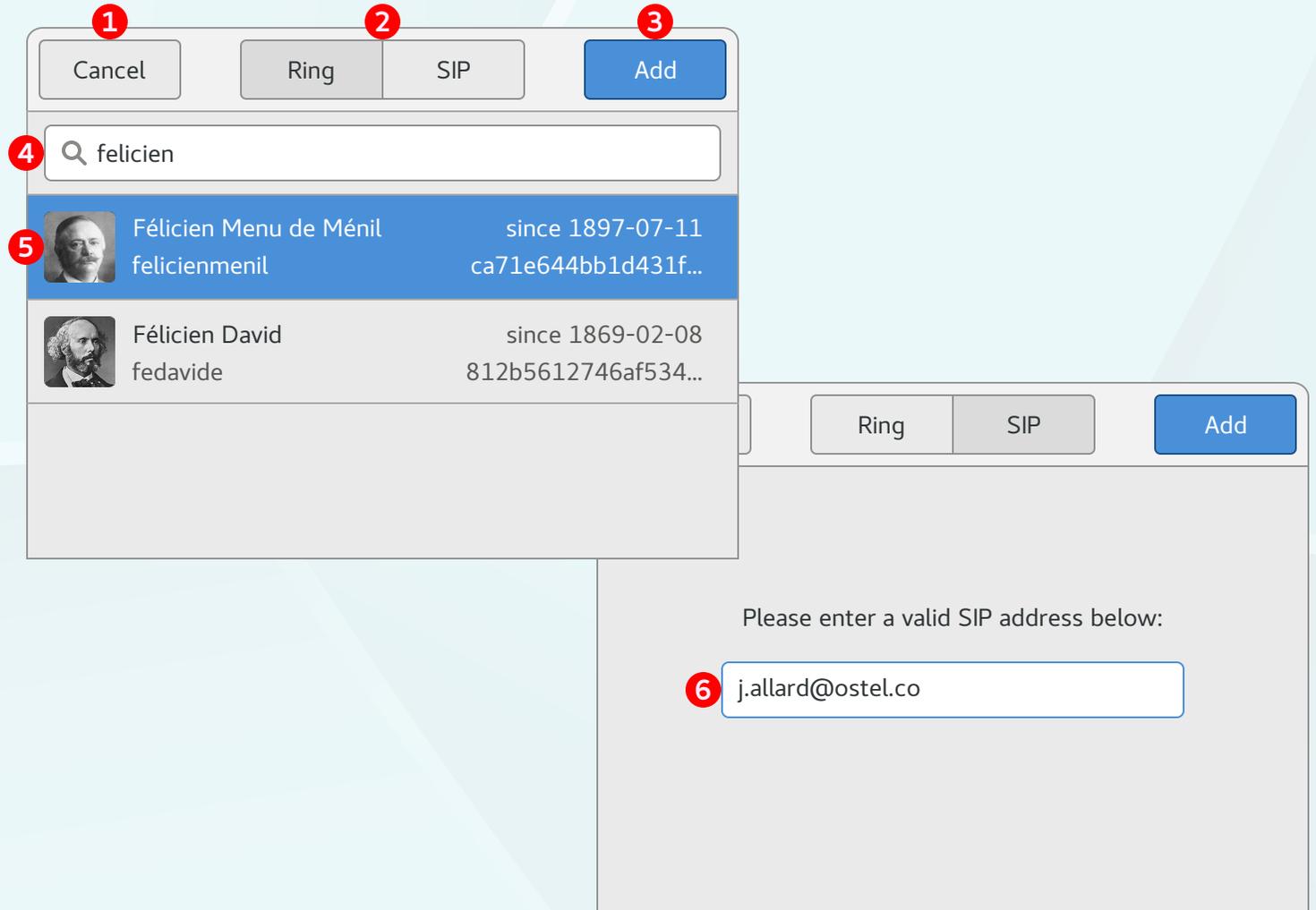
“Add conversation” dialog

A dialog window opened above the main window after clicking the “+” button. It lets the user search for people and add them.

1. Closes the dialog window.
2. View switcher for Ring accounts (default) and SIP accounts. This makes SIP discoverable for those who use it, and unobtrusive for those who don't.
3. Becomes clickable (and suggested) once an account is selected. Sends a contact request to them.
4. Searches for accounts by their available credentials.
5. Credentials displayed are: profile picture, profile name, username, RingID, and date of ID/username registration. A button can be used to show more info, if needed.

As for the SIP view...

6. A sole field to enter the SIP address. This can be made to work only with valid SIP addresses.

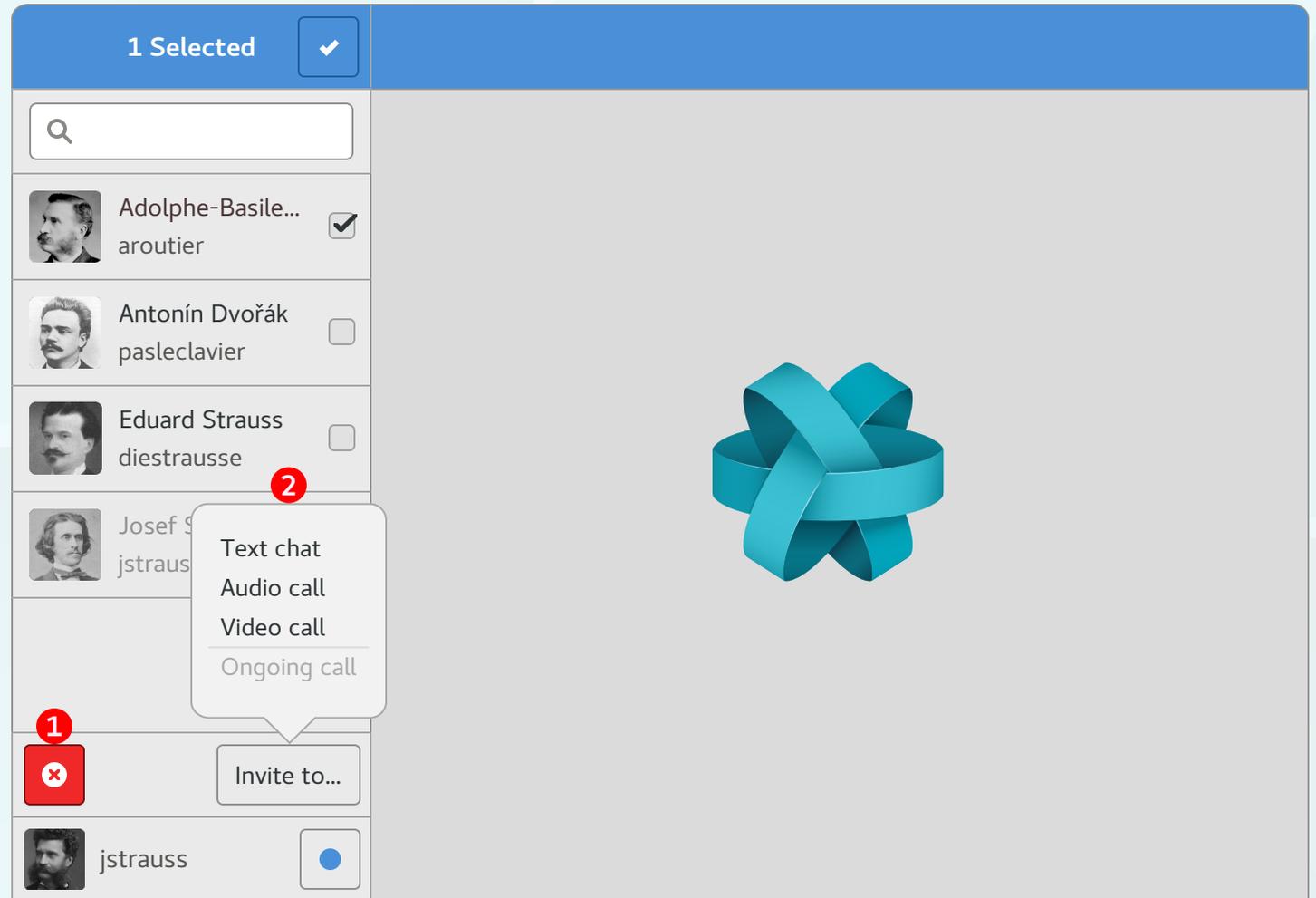


Selection mode

A standard GNOME selection mode can be used to act upon several contacts at once. Sourced from **GNOME Contacts**.

1. Removes the selected contacts. Highlighted as dangerous; must ask user whether they're sure.
2. Opens popover to start a new group chat/call, or invite the selected users to an ongoing chat/call..

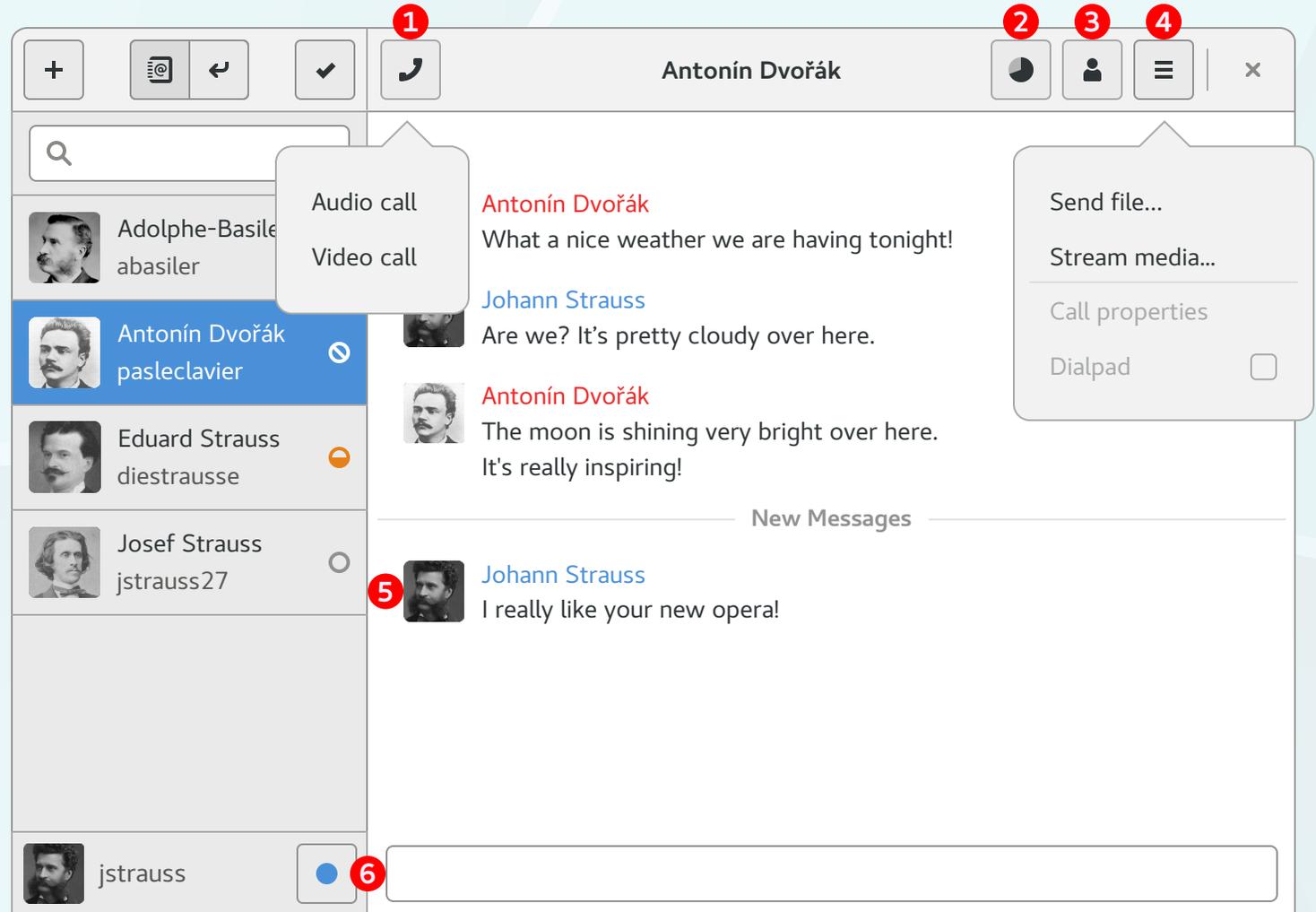
The selection mode can also be used to open individual calls and conversations just fine.



The chat view

Chat view, which opens whenever the user clicks on a conversation (without an ongoing call).

1. Initiates a call. Popover gives elegant choice and prevents unwanted calls by accidental click.
 2. Displays ongoing file transfers. Only present when files are being transferred. Sourced from **GNOME Files**.
 3. Displays a window with the contact's properties. (See later.)
 4. Contains advanced or infrequently used items. (Standard GNOME element.)
 5. New display can replace speech bubbles. Name and profile help identify the person, *especially* in group chats. They can be made clickable to allow acting upon the account (e.g. send a private message). User no longer has to jump from side to side when reading a conversation on wide displays. It fits better into GNOME, too. Sourced from **Dino**.
 6. Entry field for a message. Placement next to the account bar reminds user which account they are using, whenever they're typing a message.
- Here, displayed dates follow the example of **Polari**. However, precise dates could be displayed to the right of each person's name, if that is preferable.



Contact properties

“Contact info“ tab can show the credentials of and any other useful info about a contact, so that they are always easily accessible.

“Permissions” tab can list whatever special permissions have been granted to (or taken from) a contact, and allows the user to change them. This may include blocking someone entirely.

Properties ×

Contact info Permissions



Profile name: Antonín Dvořák
Username: pasleclavier
Ring ID: ring:0cc26c50a09d1b43550437a74f78922dc
d0cb2cf
Registered at: 1897-11-26
In contacts: Yes

Properties ×

Contact info Permissions

Text messaging

Audio/Video calling

Block user

Streaming audio

For streaming audio files (could be songs, recordings...) to other users.

1. A bar shows up with a playback progress indicator, ideally allowing jumping and skipping in the file. To the left, there is a pause button. To the right, there is a button which ends the stream.

2. A line to indicate ongoing streaming in the chat.

The screenshot displays a chat application window titled "Antonín Dvořák". The interface is divided into several sections:

- Top Bar:** Contains navigation icons (plus, camera, back, checkmark, phone) and window controls (profile, menu, close).
- Search Bar:** A search input field with a magnifying glass icon.
- User List:** A vertical list of users with profile pictures and names. The user "Antonín Dvořák" (username: pasleclavier) is highlighted in blue, indicating they are the active contact. Other users include Adolphe-Basile... (abasiler), Eduard Strauss (diestrausse), Josef Strauss (jstrauss27), and jstrauss.
- Audio Player:** A playback bar for the audio stream. It features a pause button on the left, a progress indicator showing 1:07 out of 1:52, and a close button on the right. A red circle with the number "1" is positioned over the close button.
- Chat Messages:** A list of messages from the active contact. The messages are:
 - "What a nice weather we are having tonight!"
 - "Are we? It's pretty cloudy over here."
 - "The moon is shining very bright over here. It's really inspiring!"A horizontal line separates these from a "New Messages" section, which contains:
 - "I really like your new opera!"
 - "I'm glad to read that! Which part is your favourite?"
 - "Hold on - let me stream a snippet from a recording!"
 - "Streaming 'rusalka-wassermann.ogg'..." (This message is marked with a red circle and the number "2")
- Input Field:** A text input box at the bottom of the chat window.

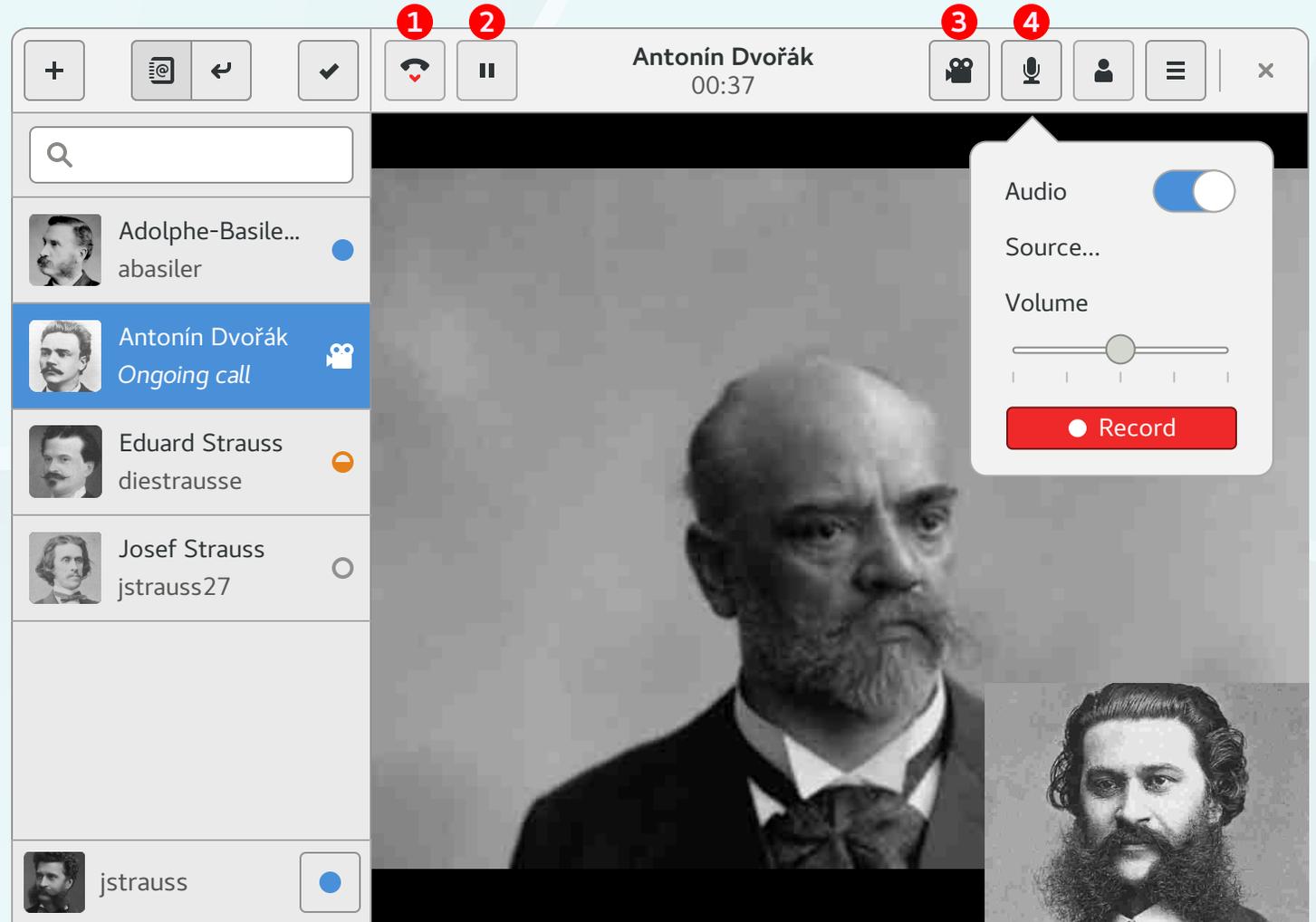
Video call view

Presented upon initiating a video call.

1. Hangs up. (Ends the call.)
2. Pauses (or suspends) the call.
3. Opens video settings. (On/Off, source camera, video quality, recording...)
4. Opens audio settings. (On/Off, source microphone, audio quality, sensitivity, recording...)

Audio and video settings could be laid out over the video area as well, but having them in the headerbar makes space for changing other caller's properties, if the feature is ever implemented for conference calls.

Audio calls are not covered in this document, but the controls can work exactly the same.

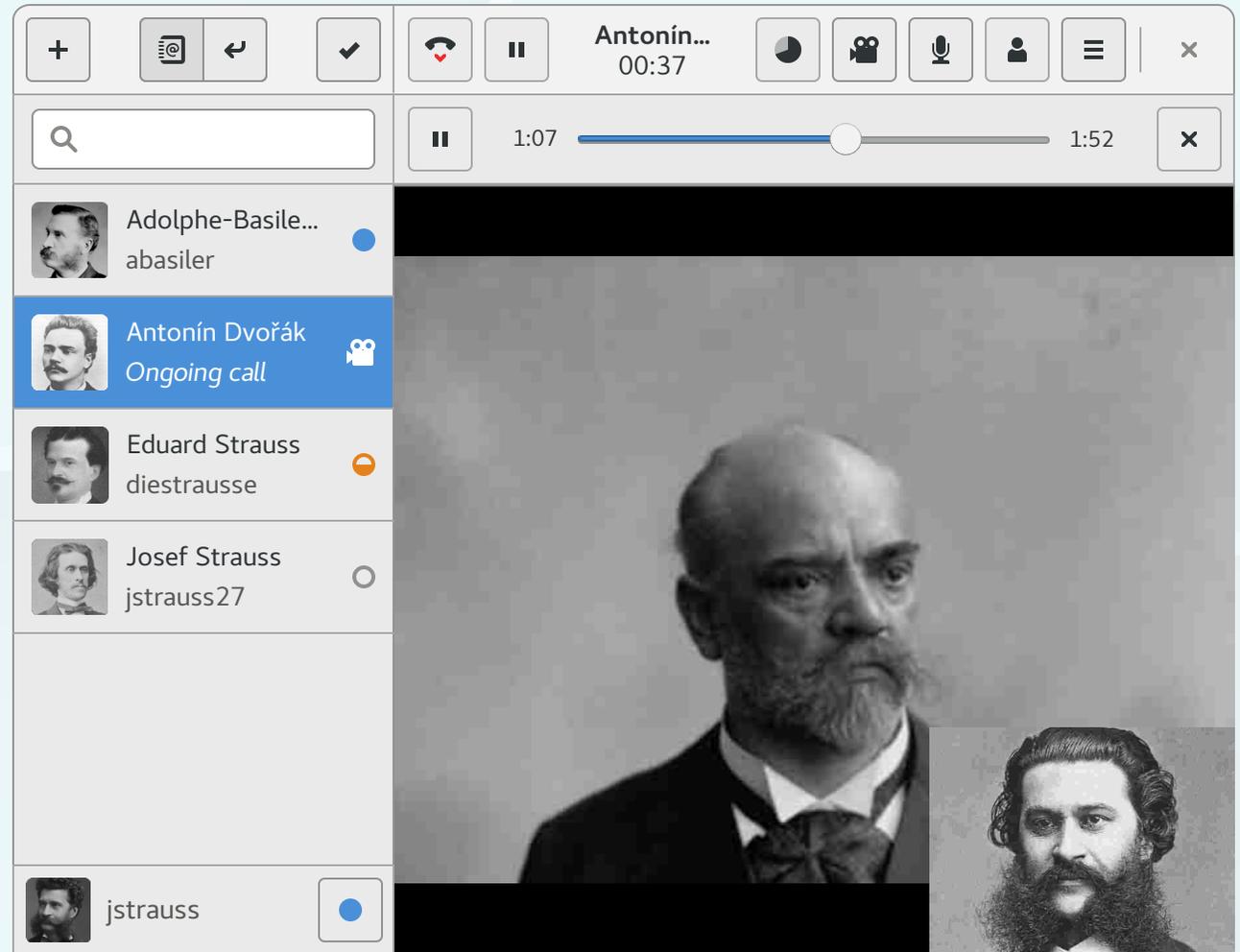


Compact window size

The window shown here is 640 px wide. This means that Ring could be used comfortably even when snapped to fill the half of a very common 1280 px wide screen.

Thus, following this mock-up shouldn't bring regressions in that aspect of usability.

Note that in this example, video call, audio stream and file transfer are ongoing simultaneously.



Group chat view

Used whenever a new group chat is created (which can become a new entry in the conversation sidebar).

1. Displays a list of participants in the group chat. Clicking on a name expands a list of actions one can perform on that user. This lets the user see who's participating at any given time, and it very elegantly corresponds to the properties button in the normal chat view. (Note the very similar icon.) Sourced from **Polari**.

Conference calls are not described in this document, but it should suffice if they work just like individual calls, only with the single button changed, as is the case with group chats.

The screenshot shows a group chat interface for a chat named "Strauss Klatsch" with 3 participants. The interface includes a top toolbar with icons for adding participants, video, voice, and a checkmark. A search bar is located below the toolbar. The participant list on the left includes:

- Strauss Klatsch** (3 participants)
- Adolphe-Basile... (abasiler) with a mute icon
- Antonín Dvořák (pasleclavier) with a mute icon
- Eduard Strauss (diestrausse) with a mute icon
- Josef Strauss (jstrauss27) with an online indicator
- jstrauss with an online indicator

The chat history on the right shows messages from Eduard Strauss, Johann Strauss, and Josef Strauss. A context menu is open over the first message from Eduard Strauss, showing options: Eduard Strauss (selected), Properties, Message, Johann Strauss, and Josef Strauss. A red notification badge with the number "1" is visible in the top right corner of the chat window.

Contact request view

Shown when switching from the conversation view to the contact request view in the sidebar, which now lists accounts who have sent a contact request to the user.

1. A bar which allows the user to either deny or accept a contact request.

2. User can be warned that any interaction will automatically accept the request. If that continues to be the case, the interactive elements (text messaging, calling) may as well be disabled until the contact accepts the request, which is more straightforward for the user.

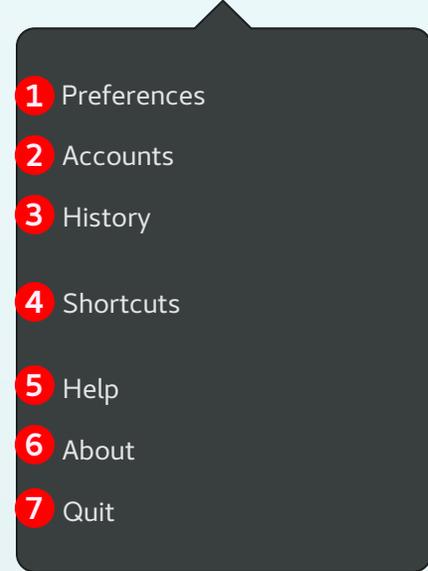
Otherwise the right-side view should remain the same as the chat view. Viewing account properties comes in handy for verifying identities.

The screenshot shows a contact request view for 'Jean Sibelius'. The top bar includes a search field, 'Accept' and 'Deny' buttons, and the contact name 'Jean Sibelius'. The left sidebar lists contact requests from Giacomo Puccini and Jean Sibelius (selected). The main area shows a message from Jean Sibelius: 'Hi! I accidentally deleted my old Ring account, so I had to get a new ID and username. Please re-add me to your contacts.' The date '29th September 1899' is displayed. The bottom bar shows a warning: 'Sending a message will accept the contact request.' Red callout boxes with numbers 1 and 2 point to the 'Deny' button and the warning message, respectively.

App menu

A standard app menu as utilized by modern GNOME apps.

1. Opens the preferences of Ring. Putting them in a separate window is the standard thing to do; every modern GNOME app puts settings in the app menu.
2. Shows accounts and their individual settings. This can be split from “Preferences” to avoid the need for a headerbar view switcher (which is also non-standard).
3. Opens the history browser in a new window. (See later.)
4. Displays a list of shortcuts one can use with Ring.
5. Displays help on how to use Ring. This, too, is common in GNOME applications, and would be immensely useful to have in Ring.
6. Opens a simple “About” window.
7. Quits Ring.

- 
- 1 Preferences
 - 2 Accounts
 - 3 History
 - 4 Shortcuts
 - 5 Help
 - 6 About
 - 7 Quit

The history window

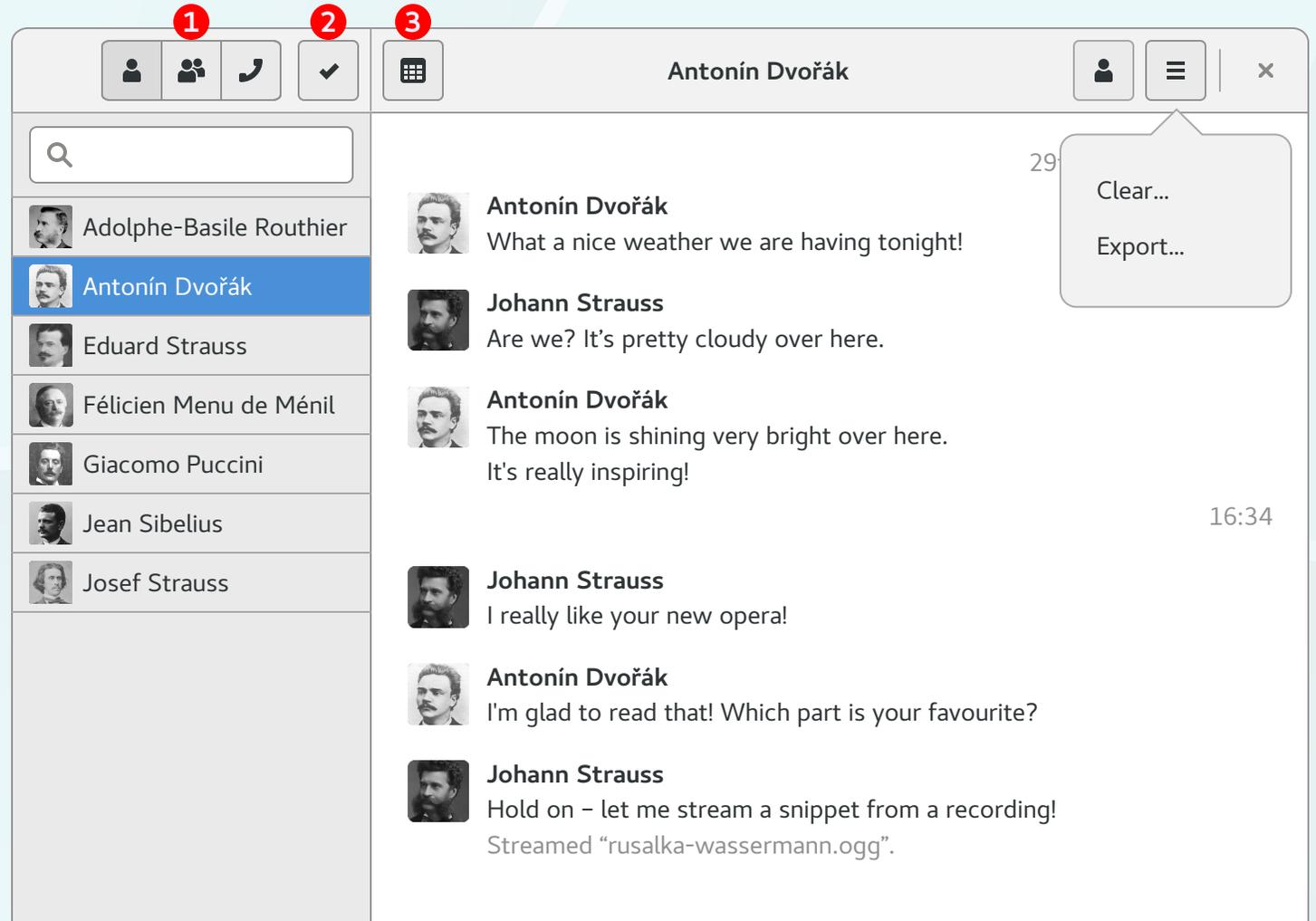
Opens up when the user views history.

1. Toggles between a list of individuals talked to, a list of group chats (or conference calls) made, and a list of (any) calls made.

2. Enters selection mode to perform actions on group of logs. This should include mass deletion.

3. Shows a calendar (in a popover), for easy navigation to a given date.

Note the compact sidebar list (inspired by **Tox**), which can also be made available for normal conversation view.



Links to the mentioned projects

Dino

<https://github.com/dino/dino>

GNOME Files

<https://wiki.gnome.org/Apps/Nautilus>

Polari

<https://wiki.gnome.org/Apps/Polari>

Tox

<https://tox.chat/>

Links to the applied licences

GPLv3

<https://www.gnu.org/licenses/gpl-3.0.html>

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Thanks to the developers of Ring and GNOME for their great work!
Also thanks to *dboles*, *esilva*, *exalm*, *happy_gnu* and *TobiasBernard* for feedback!