



MX-f FAQs

The fluxbox implementation on MX Linux

What is Fluxbox?

Fluxbox is a [Window Manager](#) (unlike Xfce, which is a Display Environment) that controls the placement and appearance of windows. For history and overview, consult [Wikipedia](#).

How do I start?

Right-click anywhere on the desktop to get a menu.

- The menu is set by `~/fluxbox/menu-mx`. Alternative menu in `~/fluxbox/menus_other/`
- For further menus, do a web search on "fluxbox menu example"

Where are the configuration files?

User configuration files are in `~/fluxbox`

- `init` - the main Fluxbox resource configuration file.
System: `/etc/X11/fluxbox/init`
- `menu` - the Fluxbox menu config (not used in the MX-f
System: `/etc/X11/fluxbox/fluxbox.menu-user`
- `mx-menu` - the menu developed for MX-f
System: `etc/skel/.fluxbox/xxxxxxxxx`
- `keys` - the Fluxbox keyboard shortcuts (hotkeys) file.
System: `/etc/X11/fluxbox/keys`
- `startup` – the application autostart location
- `overlay` - a configuration file to override elements of styles such as background.
- `apps` - a configuration file for recording the user's window preferences for specific apps.
- `windowmenu` - a configuration file for altering the Window Menu itself.

What is that dock across the top?

That is called the toolbar. Its width and placement can be set with the options available by right-clicking an empty space, while height is set in `~/fluxbox/init/` (line 6):

```
session.screen0.toolbar.height:      20
```

It contains the following default components (L-R):

pager

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iconbar

- Here open apps will show a bar, with various options available by right-clicking the empty toolbar > iconbar mode
- Right-click empty iconbar section (no app open) for options, including visibility, length, placement and clock.

systray

- Equivalent of Notification Area in Xfce. Components set in ~/.fluxbox/init

clock

- To adjust the clock to 12h or 24h, right-click and click 12h/24h. If that doesn't work, select "Edit clock format."
- 24h: %H:%M, 12h: %I:%M.
- Many other time/date options are available: <https://mxlinux.org/wiki/other/time-formats-in-scripts/>

You can move or delete any of these components in ~/.fluxbox/init/ (line 5):

```
session.screen0.toolbar.tools: prevworkspace, workspacename, nextworkspace,  
iconbar, systemtray, clock
```

How can I rid of that FAQ icon?

That is an icon set by idesktop. Open ~/.idesktop/ and rename the file fluxbox.lnk to something else such as fluxbox.lnk_bak. In this way you could reuse it in the future to place a different link there.

What should I know about the windows?

Properties

- Resize windows: Alt + right click near the corner you want to change
- Right-click title bar: menu of options, including Position, Geometry and Remember...

Grouping.

With at least two windows visible on your desktop use Ctrl click on the upper window tab of one window and drag it into the other open window. The two windows will now be grouped together with window tabs in the upper window tab bar. You may now perform a window operation that will affect the entire window "group". To reverse the tabbing use Ctrl+left click on a tab and drag it to an empty space on the desktop. (Source: Arch Wiki)

More: <http://fluxbox.sourceforge.net/docbook/en/html/chap-tabs.html>

I've heard that layers can be assigned to objects. What is that about?

Fluxbox manages the following layers (from highest to lowest):

--Above Dock

--Dock

--Top
--Normal
--Bottom
--Desktop

Windows on a higher layer will always appear above those on a lower one. These layers can be used on application windows, the slit or the toolbar. (Source: fluxbox man file) The only use of layers in the default setup is the assignment of the Applications menu icon to “Above Dock” so it will never be covered.

What should I know about workspaces?

- Middle-click on open desktop enables change, rename, add/delete
- Number set to 3 by default, can go up to 12 (init).
- Change workspace in one of 3 ways:
 - use the left and right arrows at the sides of the workspace name at the left end of the toolbar
 - rotate the scroll wheel over a blank area of the desktop
 - press Control+F1, F, F3, etc.

I see styles in the menu, what are those?

Styles are simple text files that tell fluxbox how to generate the appearance of different components of the window manager. Fluxbox ships with a large number, and many more can be found online with a web search on "fluxbox styles."

Styles include a background image, but that is blocked in MXfb by the top lines in ~/.fluxbox/overlay. To allow the style to determine the background, place a hash mark in front to the line so that it looks like this:

! The following line will prevent styles from setting the background.
#background: none

Can I change the background?

Backgrounds will be determined by the style selected unless blocked (MX-f default) by the overlay file. The list that pops up from the menu entry includes user backgrounds (~/.fluxbox/backgrounds) and system backgrounds (/usr/share/backgrounds), separated by a horizontal line. This setup allows you to put your preferred backgrounds in the user folder and be able to select among the group with a simple click.

Are there terminals available?

- F4 = Drop-down Xfce4-terminal
- Menu > Terminal = Xfce4-terminal
- Alt + F2 = xterm terminal
- Menu > Run... = little command terminal (fbrun)

Can I use my own keystroke combinations?

Yes. Many are listed by default in ~/.fluxbox/keys, though not all of them work by default. The names of the keys are not always obvious:

- Mod1 = Alt
- Mod4 = Logo key (Windows, Apple)
- Control = Control
- Shift = Shift

More: <http://fluxbox.sourceforge.net/docbook/en/html/c296.html>

Are there options available for apps that I launch?

When an app is open, you can right-click the title bar (or the insert in the iconbar) and set any of the options available. For instance, you can select to remember workspace, size, etc. Your choices are recorded in ~/.fluxbox/apps.

What screen options exist?

- To adjust brightness, right-click the battery icon in the systray
- Screen capture: if you have a Print Screen (AKA Print, PrtSc, etc.) key, try using that; if that doesn't work or exist, click menu > accessories > capture

Can I make use of bluetooth devices?

Yes. It is disabled by default, but to set it up click menu > Settings > Bluetooth. An icon will appear in the systray that you can right click to see a menu with many options, including Exit.

Do you have useful links to recommend?

NOTE: much of the documentation online is out-of-date or irrelevant to MX fluxbox.

<http://fluxbox.sourceforge.net/docbook/en/pdf/fluxbook.pdf>

Basic handbook, somewhat dated but still useful

<https://bbs.archlinux.org/viewtopic.php?id=77729>

Some good general explanations with examples

<https://wiki.archlinux.org/index.php/Fluxbox>

Comment: some commands are Arch-specific

<https://wiki.debian.org/FluxBox>

<https://wiki.debian.org/FluxboxIcon>

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