



MX-flux 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 menus in `~/.fluxbox/menus_other/`
- For further menus, do a web search on "fluxbox menu example"

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: 0
```

If a zero is there, it means that the selected style will set the height. Otherwise, a value of 20 to 25 is often comfortable.

The toolbar contains the following default components (L-R):

clock

- To adjust the clock to 12h or 24h, right-click and click 12h or 24h, whichever shows. 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/>

pager

- Allows you to switch workspace; same as Control + F1/F2/ etc.

iconbar

- Here open apps will show an icon, 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

You can move or delete any of the toolbar components in ~/.fluxbox/init/ (line 5), which by default are set up in this way:

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

How can I get rid of that FAQ icon?

That is an icon set by idesktop. Menu > Out of sight > FAQ icon; or click on ~/.fluxbox/startup and comment out (= place a “#” at the beginning of) the line *idesk &*.

How can I change or add a menu entry?

Press F3 to get to ~/.fluxbox/, and click on the file *menu-mx* to edit.

Example 1: change “Browser” to open Opera instead of Firefox

- Find the line with the word Browser (use Ctrl+F if necessary)

```
[exec] (Browser) {firefox}
```

- Double-click the word “firefox” in the command part so it is highlighted, then type “opera” and save, producing this result:

```
[exec] (Browser) {opera}
```

Example 2: add Skype to the menu

- Decide where you want it to show up; for this example, let’s assume you want to put it under “Communicate” and that you want to label it as “video”
- Follow the pattern: [exec] (menu entry) {*command*}
- The result will look something like this:

```
[submenu] (Communicate)
    [exec] (Email) {thunderbird}
    [exec] (Chat) {hexchat}
    [exec] (Video) {skype}
[end]
```

NOTE: the command may not always be obvious, so if necessary open All apps (F6) by right-clicking the entry you are interested > Edit to see the correct command.

What should I know about the windows?

Properties

- Resize windows: Alt + right click near the corner you want to change
- Right-click title bar for an option menu: Position, Geometry, Remember...

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 MX-flux 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
```

If you like a style but want to change certain traits, copy it to `~/.fluxbox/styles/`, rename it, and make your changes (consult Ubuntu style guide under Links, below). The default style for MX-flux, for instance, is a modified form of "Twice" copied to the local styles folder and renamed "MX-Twice." It was modified to center the window titles.

Can I change the background?

Backgrounds will be determined by the style selected unless blocked (= MX-flux 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.

Conky

The default conky for MX-flux is modified from one in the default MX-19 set; it is in the folder "BritPanel" and named `conkyrc_fb`. Use Conky Manager and/or MX Conky to change or modify.

Users on MX-19 will need to change a setting on the conky to gain transparency. Launch Conky Manager, highlight the conky you want, then click the settings icon on the toolbar. Click on the Transparency tab and change "Transparency" to "Pseudo-Transparency," then click Apply.

Are there terminals available?

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

Can I use my own keystroke combinations?

Yes. Many are listed by default in `~/.fluxbox/keys`, though unsure whether all of them work. The names of the keys are a bit obscure:

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

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

There are 6 dedicated function keys in MX-flux:

- F1: fluxbox FAQs
- F2: Run command
- F3: File manager
- F4: Drop-down terminal
- F5: MX Tools
- F6: All apps

Those are set in `keys`, where you can change or add entries.

Are there options available for apps that I launch?

When an app is open, you can right-click the title bar (or the icon 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-flux.

<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.ubuntu.com/HowToFluxboxStyles>

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

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

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