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 (or the workspace arrow icon) on the toolbar, 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**.
- The default for MX-flux is 12h time and date in day/short month format: **%I:%M %b %d**. 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. Default for MX-flux is All Windows.

- Right-click empty iconbar section (no app open) for options, including visibility, length, placement and clock.

Toolbar options available with right click

systray
- Equivalent of Notification Area in Xfce. Default components set in ~/.fluxbox/init; apps that have a systray option will show in the systray when launched.

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 the FAQ icon or any conky?

Menu > Out of sight > FAQ icon; (takes effect the next time the user logs in). For a conky, Menu > Out of sight > Conky (actually a toggle).

The FAQ icon can be restored by navigating ~/.fluxbox/startup and remove the comment sign (= the "#") at the beginning of the line *idesk &*. For the conky, just click the same menu entry again to reactivate it.

How can I change or add a menu entry?

Press F3 to get to ~/.fluxbox/, and click on the file *menu-mx* to edit. The syntax is: category (brackets) name (parentheses) command (braces).

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"

- Introduce a new line and 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 to use may not always be obvious, so if necessary open All apps (F6), right-click the entry you are interested in > Edit and copy the correct full command for the menu.

What should I know about the windows?

Properties
- Resize: Alt + right click near the corner you want to change and drag.
- Move: Alt + left click and drag.
- Options: right-click the app's title icon on the toolbar.

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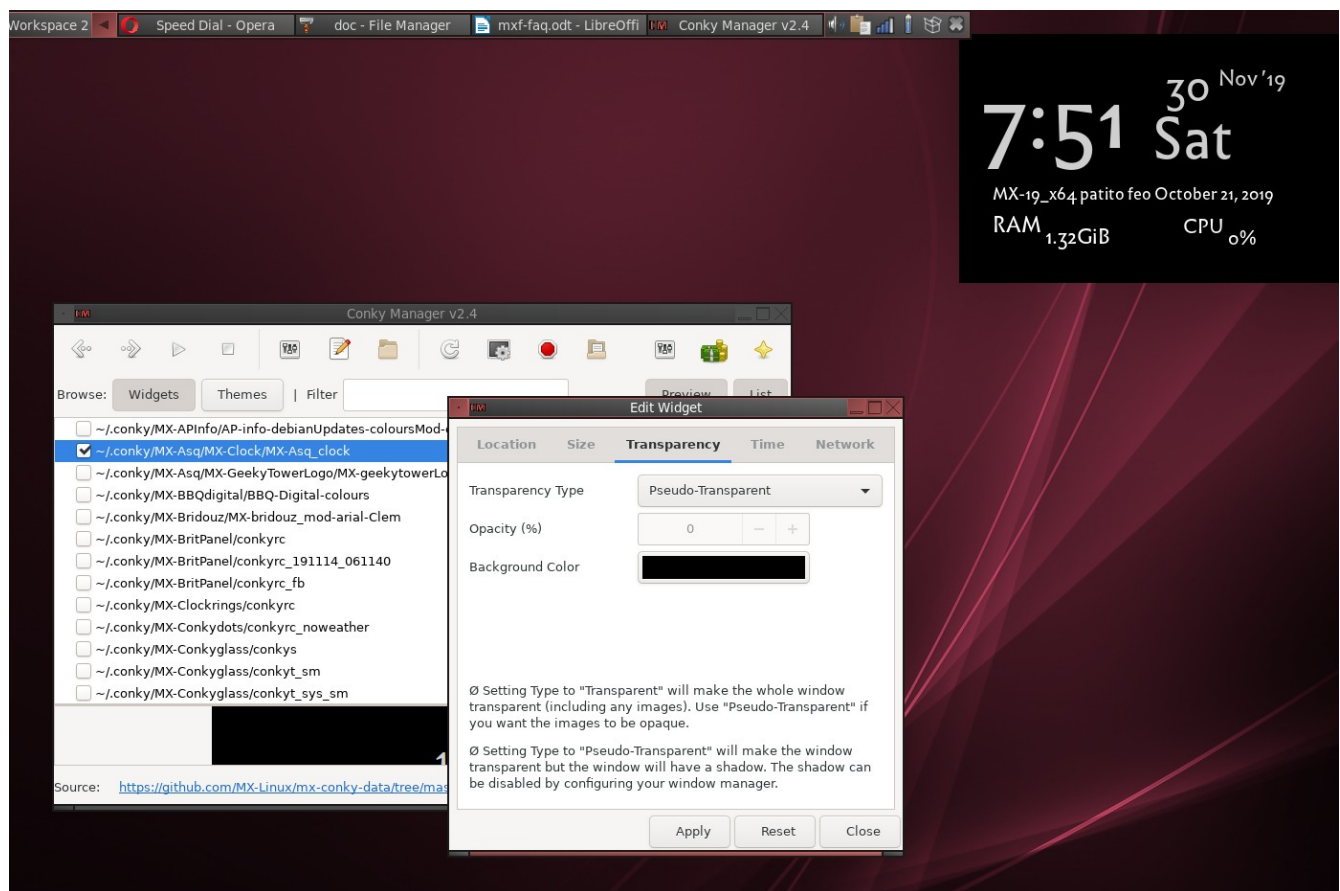
If you like a style but want to change certain traits, copy it to ~/.fluxbox/styles/, rename it, and make your changes (consult Ubuntu style guide under Links, below). The default style for MX-flux, for instance, is a modified form of "Twice" copied to the local styles folder, renamed "MX-Twice" and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

Can I change the background?

MX-flux blocks by default in the overlay file the style selected from determining the background. Click Menu > Look > Backgrounds to see the available backgrounds. The list that pops up from the menu entry includes any 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

MX-flux users can make use of the default conky set for MX Linux by pressing F6 and launching Conky Manager. Users on MX-19 will need to change a setting on the conkies 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.

Ready to change conky to pseudo-transparency in order to make the background invisible

Are terminals available?

- F4 (or Menu > Terminal) = Drop-down 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 a couple of the keys are a bit obscure:
- Mod1 = Alt
- Mod4 = Logo key (Windows, Apple)

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 values are set at the top of the file ~/.fluxbox/ *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 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?

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
Some commands are Arch-specific

https://wiki.ubuntu.com/HowToFluxboxStyles

https://wiki.debian.org/FluxBox

https://wiki.debian.org/FluxboxIcon

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