

MX-fb FAQs

This document is restricted to fluxbox. The MX Users Manual (includes Xfce components and processes used in the fluxbox session) can be accessed through the Menu: Help > MX.

What is Fluxbox?

Fluxbox is a Window Manager that controls the placement and appearance of windows. (unlike Xfce, which is a Display Environment). 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/mx-menu. Some alternative menus are available in

~/.fluxbox/menus_other/

For other menus, do a web search on "fluxbox menu example"

To edit a menu,

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.

System: /etc/X11/fluxbox/fluxbox.menu-user

mx-menu - the menu developed for Mx fb

System: etc/skel/.fluxbox/xxxxxxxxx

keys - the Fluxbox keyboard shortcuts (hotkeys) file.

System: /etc/X11/fluxbox/keys

startup - where to launch startup apps.

overlay - a configuration file to override elements of styles.

apps - a config file for remembering the window configuration of specific apps.

windowmenu - a configuration file for altering the Window Menu itself.

What is that dock across the top (by default)?

That is called the toolbar. Right-click empty iconbar section (no app open) for options, including visibility, length, placement and clock. It contains the following default components (L-R):

pager

--

iconbar

--Here open apps will show a bar, with various options available by right-clicking the empty toolbar >

iconbar mode

systray

--

clock

-To adjust the clock, including whether 12h or 24h, right-click and click and 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 by altering this line in ~/.fluxbox/init:
session.screen0.toolbar.tools:prevworkspace, workspacename, nextworkspace, iconbar, systemtray,
clock

It looks like there is another panel in the lower left corner. What is that?

That is simply an Xfce panel reduced to a minimum and containing a single component: the Xfce Applications menu. To add to or change Panel features: right-click panel > Panel > Properties.
The file is located in ~/.fluxbox/mx-fb/xfce4-panel-fb. If you delete or rename that file then it will no longer show on the desktop.

BUG: using that panel carries over to the Xfce session; you can restore the Xfce panel you had using MX Tweak but then that will show in the fluxbox session and must be removed again.

Windows

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>

Layers

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)

Workspaces

Middle-click on open desktop enables change, rename, add/delete

Number set to 3 by default, can go up to 12.

Move among them 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.

Styles

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." They include a background image, but that is blocked in MXfb by a line 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  
-----
```

Backgrounds

Backgrounds will be determined by the style selected unless blocked (MXfb 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.

Terminal

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

Keystrokes

Many listed by default in ~/.fluxbox/keys, though not all of them work by default.

Mod1 = Alt
Mod4 = Logo key (Windows, Apple)
Control = Control
Shift = Shift
More: <http://fluxbox.sourceforge.net/docbook/en/html/c296.html>

Apps

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

--Communicate > Video: for that to work Skype needs to be installed

Misc

To adjust brightness, right-click the battery icon in the systray

Links

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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