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Rafael Faita
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Using WSL 2 with X-Server — Linux on Windows

What is WSL 2

The Windows Subsystem for Linux lets developers run a GNU/Linux environment — including most command-line tools, utilities, and applications — directly on Windows, unmodified, without the overhead of a traditional virtual machine or the dual-boot setup.

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Install WSL2 on Windows 10

Using the following link here install the WSL 2 on your Windows 10. The Microsoft tutorial is very simple and clean.

Install X-Server on Windows 10

Now with WSL 2 installed, we can download and install VcXsrv. In my opinion, seems to the best choice for X-Server in Windows

The process of installing is very simple(next, next, and finish).

After installation, create a new desktop shortcut and use the following command. Add the following command in the properties → shortcut →target

```
"C:\Program Files\VcXsrv\vcxsrv.exe" :0 -ac -terminate -lesspointer -
multiwindow -clipboard -wgl -dpi auto
```

Execute the shortcut and use the below command in prompt to verify it. (execute it on a Windows Shell with Admin Priv)

```
netstat -abno|findstr 6000
```

Install Terminator in Bash

Open Ubuntu and install terminator using the following command:

```
sudo apt-get update
sudo apt-get install terminator
```

With the X-Server running execute the following command, to validate the terminator:

```
DISPLAY=$(cat /etc/resolv.conf | grep nameserver | awk "{print $2}"):0
terminator &
```

If you see the **terminator** window, then we are successful with the initial setup.

But to launch a window first we need to run X-Server then open a Ubuntu window and launch terminator using a command. This all seems too much for launching a terminal.

So in the next section, we will see how to automate these steps.

Add X-Server to Startup Program

Using Window(KEY) + R, execute the following command:

```
shell:startup
```

Copy the shortcut created above to init the X-Server inside of this folder.

VBS script to start Terminator

Create a folder in your Windows home directory and create the following file: **startTerminator.vbs**

Content:

```
args = "-c" & " -l " & """DISPLAY=$(cat /etc/resolv.conf | grep
nameserver | awk "{print $2}"):0 terminator"""
WScript.CreateObject("Shell.Application").ShellExecute "bash", args,
"", "open", 0
```

Create a new shortcut with the following command:

```
C:\Windows\System32\wscript.exe C:\Users\
<YOUR_USER>\linux\terminator\startTerminator.vbs
```

You can find and download a nice icon from here.

Extra: Limiting memory to WSL2

Create a **.wslconfig** file inside of directory: **%UserProfile%**

Content:

```
[wsl2]
memory=5GB
swap=0
localhostForwarding=true
```

My last recommendations

- Install ASDF
- Install Visual Code
- Install Docker

I hope I help you and stay tuned for more technical/architecture articles.

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