**What is bspwm?**

bspwm (Binary Space Partition Manager) is a tiling window manager that represents each window as leaves of a full binary tree. bspwm is written in the C language and its configuration is programmed using shell script its author is baskerville. The overall program is written in 1200 lines of code thus making it not take up much memory. bspwm needs a third-party tool to capture keyboard and pointer inputs called sxhkd. sxhkd (simple X hotkey daemon) is make by baskerville too.

I will be installing bspwm and all its dependencies on Arch Linux but will also be providing the commands for other distros as well such as Ubuntu and Fedora. I will also be assuming that you have finished the base install of your chosen Linux distro. I will also be using VIM as my default text editor, but you can use whatever your comfortable with.

**Installing bspwm**

1. First run a command to make sure your repositories and system are up to date. Open your terminal and run the command that works on your distribution.
   1. Type sudo pacman -Syyu
   2. When it prompts you to proceed with installation type **Y. (Note:** case doesn’t matter**.)**
   3. After its finished updating clear your screen using the command **clear** or press **Ctrl+L**.

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1. Now we are ready to install bspwm and it’s required dependencies.
   1. **Type** sudo pacman -S git xorg-server xorg-init xorg-xsetroot arandr dmenu nitrogen picom kitty bspwm sxhkd firefox neovim
   2. Type **Y** to proceed with the installation.
   3. After the installation is complete clear your screen again using **clear** or **Ctrl+L.**

**Note**: Installation time varies depending on your system and connection to the internet.

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**Configuring the .xinitrc file**

1. Before we can start bspwm we have to configure our .xinitrc file.
2. Make sure you are in the home directory use the command **pwd.** If you are not in your home directory navigate to it by using **cd** then use the **pwd** command to double check.

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1. When in your user’s home directory run the command **ls -a** (this will list all the hidden files in your home directory.

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1. To make bspwm load correctly we must edit the .xinitrc file. To do this type the command **nvim .xinitrc**.

**Caution**: if you are not in the home directory you will get an error message. You must navigate to the home directory.



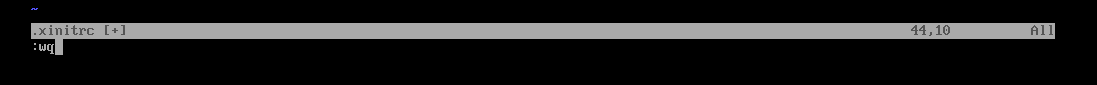
1. Navigate to the bottom of the file using the **downward** **arrow** key and type the lines circled in red.

Note: To type in VIM, press the **I** button on your keyboard, this will bring you into insert mode.

Text

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1. When you are done making the changes to the file press the **escape** key and type in **:wq** to write and save the changes to the file and quit out of VIM.



1. After writing the changes you will get a prompt that says “written” we can now clear the screen using **clear** or **Ctrl+L**.
2. Next, you need to make two directories in your .config folder they should be called **bspwm** and **sxhkd**. The command we are going to use is “mkdir -p ~/.config/{bspwm,sxhkd}”.



**Note**: If you want to double check that the directories have been created then you can run the “ls .config” command.

1. Now all you need to do is install and copy the example file for sxhkd and bspwm located in “/usr/share/doc/bspwm/examples/” into the new bspwm and sxhkd directory we created in the previous step by entering the following command:



**Starting bspwm**

1. Now that we have everything installed and configured correctly, we can start bspwm properly.

a. To start bspwm we type the command **startx**.

b. After bspwm loads you will see a grey screen. Let’s start by fixing this. Us

**Note**: bspwm refers to the windows key as the super key and uses it in the sxhkdrc to execute keybinds and commands