A Friendly Guide to LARBS!

by
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Use vim keys (`h`/`j`/`k`/`l`) to navigate this document. Pressing `s` will fit it to window width (`a` to revert). `K` and `J` zoom in and out. `Super+f` to toggle fullscreen. `f` will highlight links to follow which are selectable by typing the number that appears plus `Enter`. `q` to quit. (These are general binds set for **zathura**, the pdf reader.)

- `Mod+F1` will show this document at any time.
- By `Mod` I mean the Super Key, usually known as "the Windows Key."

FAQs are at the end of this document.

Welcome!

Basic goals and principles of this system:

- **Naturalness** – Remove the border between mind and matter: everything important should be as few keypresses as possible away from you, and you shouldn't have to think about what you're doing. Immersion.
- **Economy** – Programs should be simple and light on system resources and highly extensible. Because of this, many are terminal or small ncurses programs that have all the magic inside of them.
- **Keyboard/vim-centrality** – All terminal programs (and other programs) use vim keys when possible. Your hands never need leave the home row or thereabout.
- **Decentralization** – This system is a web of small, modifiable and replaceable programs that users can easily customize.

General keyboard changes

- Capslock is a useless key in high quality space. It's now remapped. If you press it alone, it will function as escape, making vimcraft much more natural, but you can also hold it down and it will act as another Windows/super/mod key.
- The menu button (usually between the right Alt and Ctrl) is an alternative Super/Mod button. This is to make one-handing on laptops easier.

If you'd like to change any of these keyboard changes, you need only open and change the `remaps` script. All custom scripts in LARBS are located in `~/.local/bin/`. Actually, this should go without saying, but *everything* here can easily be changed. Below in this document, there is information about where to change programs/components.

Additionally, while this isn't a part of the desktop environment, the default editing mode in the shell is using vi bindings. If you want to learn more of this, run `Mod+Shift+E` and type and select the option for "vi mode in shell". This setting can be changed if you don't like it by

deleting or commenting out the contents of `~/.config/inputrc`.

The Status Bar

If you're new to dwm, notice the status bar on the top of the screen. To the left side, you'll see the numbers of your current workspace/tag(s). On the right side, you'll see various system status notifiers, the date, volume, even music and local weather if possible, etc. I'm sure you can figure it out. The script that sets the bar is `~/.local/bin/dwmbar`. You can read the specifics there or change it if you want. If you edit and save changes to that file in vim, vim will automatically kill and update it.

Deeper Tutorials

Press `mod+shift+e` at any time to get a menu of programs to watch videos about streaming directly from YouTube. You can also check the config files for programs which detail a lot of the specific bindings.

Key Bindings

dwm binds

The window manager dwm abstractly orders all of your windows into a stack from most important to least based on when you last manipulated it.

dwm is an easy to use window manager, but you should understand that it makes use of a stack layout. If you're not familiar, I recommend you press `Mod+Shift+E` and select the "dwm" option to watch my brief tutorial (note that the bindings I discuss in the video are the default dwm binds, which are different (inferior) to those here).

- `Mod+Enter` – Spawn terminal (the default terminal is `st`; run `man st` for more.)
- `Mod+q` – Close window
- `Mod+d` – dmenu (For running commands or programs without shortcuts)
- `Mod+j/k` – Cycle thru windows by their stack order
- `Mod+Space` – Make selected window the master (or switch master with 2nd)
- `Mod+h/l` – Change width of master window
- `Mod+z/Z` – Increase/decrease gaps
- `Mod+D` – Toggle gaps
- `Mod+Shift+Space` – Make a window float (move and resize with `Mod+left/right` click).
- `Mod+b` – Toggle status bar
- `Mod+B` – Toggle window float in bottom left corner (good for video watched intermittently)
- `Mod+N` – Same as above, but for the bottom right corner.

Window layouts

- `Mod+t` – Tiling mode (active by default)
- `Mod+f` – Fullscreen mode
- `Mod+y` – Fibbonacci mode (similar to tiling mode)
- `Mod+u` – Center the master window
- `Mod+o` – Center and float the master window
- `Mod+i`/`I` – Increase/decrease the number of master windows

Window basics

Notice the case sensitivity of the shortcuts* , Be sure you play around with these. Be flexible with the basic commands and the system will grow on you quick.

- `Mod+Enter` – Spawn terminal (the default terminal is `st`; run `man st` for more.)
- `Mod+q` – Close window
- `Mod+d` – dmenu (For running commands or programs without shortcuts)
- `Mod+h`/`j`/`k`/`l` – Move to different windows
- `Mod+H`/`J`/`K`/`L` – Move a window around
- `Mod+Y`/`U`/`I`/`O` – Resize windows
- `Mod+s`/`S` – Increase/decrease inner gaps
- `Mod+z`/`Z` – Increase/decrease outer gaps
- `Mod+D` – Toggle gaps
- `Mod+T` – Restore gaps to default
- `Mod+Shift+Space` – Make a window float (it will still be resizeable)
- `Mod+Space` – Switch focus from a floating window to a non-floating one (or vice versa)
- `Mod+b` – Toggle status bar
- `Mod+B` – Toggle window float in bottom left corner (good for video watched intermittently)
- `Mod+N` – Same as above, but for the bottom right corner.

Basic Programs

Note: LARBS will install nearly all of these programs by default, but some only come if you chose an extra option. Naturally, you can use `yay` to look for and install any you want to add.

- `Mod+r` – lf (file browser/manager)
- `Mod+e` – mutt (email; not installed by default, see below)
- `Mod+m` – ncmpcpp (music player)
- `Mod+w` – nmtui (for connecting to wireless internet)
- `Mod+a` – Dropdown calculator (hide with `mod+a`)
- `Mod+a` – htop (system info)

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*To type capital letters, hold down the `Shift` key—that might sound like an obvious and condescending thing to tell you, but there have literally been multiple people (Boomers) who have emailed me asking how to type a capital letter since caps lock isn't enabled.

- `Mod+n` – newsboat (RSS feed reader)
- `Mod+A` – alsa (audio system control)
- `Mod+W` – Web Browser (Brave)
- `Mod+G` – GIMP (for general image manipulation)

System

- `Mod+x` – lock screen (Enter password to return)
- `Mod+X` – shutdown (will ask to confirm)
- `Mod+Shift+Backspace` – reboot (will ask to confirm)
- `Mod+Shift+Escape` – exit the graphical environment (will ask to confirm)
- `Mod+F1` – Shows this document
- `Mod+Shift+F1` – Toggle the LARBS welcome message
- `Mod+F2` – Refresh dwm
- `Mod+F3` – Select screen/display to use
- `Mod+F4` – Hibernate (will ask to confirm)
- `Mod+F5` – Reset Network Manager, search for new networks
- `Mod+F6` – transmission torrent client (cli)
- `Mod+F7` – Toggle on/off transmission client via dmenu
- `Mod+F8` – Check mail, if mutt-wizard is installed.
- `Mod+F9` – Mount a USB drive/hard drive or Android
- `Mod+F10` – Unmount a non-essential drive or Android
- `Mod+'` – Select an emoji to copy to clipboard
- `Mod+Insert` – Show contents of clipboard/primary selection

Audio

I use ncmpcpp as a music player, which is a front end for mpd.

- `Mod+m` – ncmpcpp music player
- `Mod+.` – Next track
- `Mod+,` – Previous track
- `Mod+<` – Restart track
- `Mod+p` – Pause
- `Mod+M` – Mute all audio
- `Mod+-` – Decrease volume (holding shift increases amount)
- `Mod++` – Increase volume (holding shift increases amount)
- `Mod+[` – Back 10 seconds (holding shift increases amount)
- `Mod+]` – Forward 10 seconds (holding shift increases amount)
- `Mod+A` – alsamixer (general volume sink/source control)

Tags/Workspaces

There are nine tags, active tags are highlighted in the top left.
- `Mod+(Number)` – Go to that number tag
- `Mod+Shift+(Number)` – Send window to that tag
- `Mod+Tab` – Go to previous tag
- `Mod+g` – Go to left workspace
- `Mod+;` – Go to right workspace

Recording

I use maim and ffmpeg to make different recordings of the desktop and audio. All of these recording shortcuts will output into ~, and will not overwrite previous recordings as their names are based on their exact times.
- `PrintScreen` – Take a screenshot
- `Shift+PrintScreen` – Select area to screenshot
- `Mod+PrintScreen` – Opens dmenu menu to select kind of audio/video recording
- `Mod+Delete` – Kills any recording started in the above way.
- `Mod+ScrollLock` – Turn on and off screenkey (if installed) for visual typing display
- `Mod+Shift+c` – Toggles a webcam in the bottom right for screencasting.

Other buttons

I've mapped those extra buttons that some keyboards have (play and pause buttons, screen brightness, email, web browsing buttons, etc.) to what you would expect.

Configuration

Here's a brief reference as to what program does what and where you can modify them. Some of the programs marked as "suckless" programs must be recompiled after being reconfigured. That means you should go to their directory in `~/.local/src/` and run `make && sudo make install` after making changes.
- dwm: the window manager itself – `~/.local/src/dwm/` (suckless)
- lf: the file manager, `~/.config/lfrc` for the main config, `~/.config/scope` for file previews.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

My keyboard isn't working as expected!

LARBS runs some custom keyboard settings in `~/.xinitrc`. These settings may override your preferred settings, so you should open this file and comment out troublesome lines if you have issues.

My audio isn't working!

On fresh install, the Linux audio system (ALSA) often mutes outputs. You may want to unbind
You may also need to set your preferred default output sink which you can do by the command
line, or by selecting one with `pulsemixer` (`mod+A`).

If you have a more complex audio setup and can't be bothered to figure out ALSA, you might
want to install and enable PulseAudio, which general "just werks".

How do I copy and paste?

Copying and pasting is always program-specific on any system. In most graphical programs,
copy and paste will be the same as they are on Windows: `ctrl-c` and `ctrl-v`. In the Linux
terminal, those binds have other more important purposes, so you can run `man st` to see how to
copy and paste in my terminal build.

Additionally, I've set vim to use the clipboard as the default buffer, which means when you
copy or delete something in vim, it will be in your system clipboard as well, so you can `ctrl-v`
it into your Firefox instance, etc. You can also paste material copied from other programs into
vim with the typical vim bindings.

How do I change the background/wallpaper?

The system will always read the file `~/.config/wall.png` as the wallpaper. The script
`setbg`, if run on an image will set it as the persistent background. When using the file manager,
you can simply hover over an image name and type `bg` and this will run `setbg`.

How I change the colorscheme?

LARBS no longer deploys Xresource by default, but you can still add an `~/.Xdefaults` file
and add color settings to change the theme of numerous programs, including the terminal. See
the Arch Wiki's article for more information.

How do I set up my email?

LARBS is automatically set up to be compatible with `mutt-wizard`, which is now in the AUR
and can be installed by running `yay -S mutt-wizard-git`. You can then add email
accounts by running `mw add`.

Once you have successfully added your email address(es), you can open your mail with
`neomutt` which is also bound to `Mod+e`. You can sync your mail by pressing `Mod+F8` and you
can set a cronjob to sync mail every several minutes by running `mw cron`.

How do I set up my music?

By default, mpd, the music daemon assumes that `~/Music` is your music directory. This can be

changed in `~/.config/mpd/mpd.conf`. When you add music to your music folder, you may have to run `mpc up` in the terminal to update the database. mpd is controlled by ncmpcpp, which is accessible by `Mod+m`.

How do I update LARBS?

LARBS is deployed as a git repository in your home directory. You can use it as such to fetch, diff and merge changes from the remote repository. If you don't want to do that or don't know how to use git, you can actually just rerun the script (as root) and reinstall LARBS and it will automatically update an existing install if you select the same username. This will overwrite the original config files though, including changes you made for them, but this is an easier brute force approach that will also install any new dependencies.

Contact

- luke@lukesmith.xyz – For questions!
- https://lukesmith.xyz – For stalking!
- https://lukesmith.xyz/donate – To incentivize more development of LARBS!
- My Github Page – For the code behind it!
- [RSS](RSS) – For updates!