

Tiling Window Managers for X

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What is a Tiling Window Manager?

- ...what is a window manager?
 - UI which lets you move, and resize windows in X.
 - Boundaries are blurry:
 - Compositing managers
 - Desktop shells (GNOME shell, Unity, KDE Plasma)
 - Desktop environments (GNOME, Unity, KDE)
 - Most tiling window managers are standalone

Tiling and Modern Desktops

- Modern desktops have manual tiling features
 - Window snapping
 - Screen edge snapping
 - Windows' “Aero snap”
 - GNOME's Mutter
 - Ubuntu's Unity
- Lacking in flexibility

Why a Tiling WM?

- *Automatic* tiling
- But most also offer:
 - Keyboard control
 - Configurability
 - Scriptability
 - Low resource use

Prominent Tiling WMs

	Focus	Configuration
dwm*	Simplicity, small size	C header file, .patch files
ratpoison	Keyboard control	Command script
wmii*	Configurability	Virtual file system, scripting
Xmonad	Haskell!	Haskell
Awesome	Configurability, extensibility	Lua
Qtile	Configurability, extensibility	Python
i3*	Configurability, docs	Structured config file

dwm

- Configurable via C .h file, patches
- Simple layouts:
 - Monocle
 - Tiled (master)
 - Floating
- Commonly forked



wmii

- Configuration via a 9p “virtual file system”
 - Bash, Python, Ruby, rc
- Nice column-oriented layout
- Status bar, system tray



twm@panther:~

```
raptor-2.0.15-1 rasqal-1:0.9.32-1
redland-1:1.0.17-2
xdg-utils-1.1.0.git20141009-1
xorg-xset-1.2.3-1 libreoffice-fresh-4.4.1-2
```

Total Download Size: 104.48 MiB

Total Installed Size: 471.33 MiB

:: Proceed with installation? [Y/n]

:: Retrieving packages ...

boost-libs-1.57.0-3...	2.1 MiB	529K/s	00:04	[#]	100%
libvenge-0.0.2-1-i686	537.4 KiB	604K/s	00:01	[#]	100%
libwpd-0.10.0-1-i686	1066.2 KiB	585K/s	00:02	[#]	100%
libwps-0.3.1-1-i686	645.5 KiB	570K/s	00:01	[#]	100%
raptor-2.0.15-1-i686	275.7 KiB	603K/s	00:00	[#]	100%
rasqal-1:0.9.32-1-i686	241.9 KiB	594K/s	00:00	[#]	100%
redland-1:1.0.17-2-i686	191.7 KiB	599K/s	00:00	[#]	100%
hyphen-2.8.8-1-i686	14.1 KiB	705K/s	00:00	[#]	100%
lpsolve-5.5.2.0-3-i686	503.2 KiB	549K/s	00:01	[#]	100%
libwpg-0.3.0-1-i686	128.0 KiB	601K/s	00:00	[#]	100%
libvisio-0.1.1-1-i686	544.0 KiB	606K/s	00:01	[#]	100%
libetonyek-0.1.1-1-i686	633.0 KiB	586K/s	00:01	[#]	100%
libodfgen-0.1.3-1-i686	245.6 KiB	608K/s	00:00	[#]	100%
libcdr-0.1.1-1-i686	829.5 KiB	587K/s	00:01	[#]	100%
libmspub-0.1.2-1-i686	454.5 KiB	573K/s	00:01	[#]	100%
glew-1.12.0-1-i686	367.4 KiB	595K/s	00:01	[#]	100%
clucene-2.3.3.4-8-i686	756.6 KiB	584K/s	00:01	[#]	100%
xorg-xset-1.2.3-1-i686	16.8 KiB	624K/s	00:00	[#]	100%
xdg-utils-1.1.0.git...	51.2 KiB	617K/s	00:00	[#]	100%
libpagemaker-0.0.2-...	66.0 KiB	617K/s	00:00	[#]	100%
libabw-0.1.1-1-i686	238.1 KiB	589K/s	00:00	[#]	100%
libmwaw-0.3.4-1-i686	333.4 KiB	392K/s	00:09	[-]	8%

twm@panther:~

twm@panther:~

twm@panther:~

4 twm@panther ~ \$ scrot

xeyes

i3

- Configuration via text config file
- Layouts via containers:
 - Stack
 - Split
 - Vertical or horizontal
 - Nestable
- Great docs
- Also:
 - i3bar
 - i3status
 - i3lock

i3 Demo