

# Easy Jwm: A guide for configuring Jwm desktop environment

Synopsis: Jwm is a very lightweight and robust desktop environment which does not require very much from a computer. The interface itself is very simple having a bottom panel and the usual tray capabilities by default. Every configuration and setting tweak is usually done via the hidden .jwmrc configuration file. To get started with Jwm might be difficult for newcomers so to make things easier here is a simple guide to follow on how to configure Jwm. Also a working configuration file with theme settings is provided here. This guide was written by JJ Posti from [techttimejourney.net](http://techttimejourney.net). Everything this guide provides you shall use at your own responsibility.

## 1. Adding programs to Jwm right click menu

When you take a look at .jwmrc file you see it beginning with entries like this:

```
<JWM>

<!-- The root menu, if this is undefined you will not get a menu. -->
<!-- Additional RootMenu attributes: onroot, labeled, label -->
<RootMenu height="15" onroot="12">
  <Program icon="terminal.png" label="Terminal">gnome-terminal</Program>
  <Program icon="terminal.png" label="Pcmanfm">pcmanfm</Program>
  <Program icon="terminal.png" label="Firefox">firefox</Program>
  <Program icon="terminal.png" label="Sound">pavucontrol</Program>
  <Program icon="terminal.png" label="Vlc">vlc</Program>
  <Program icon="terminal.png" label="Gimp">gimp</Program>
  <Program icon="terminal.png" label="Office">libreoffice</Program>
```

If you now add entries like: `<Program icon="terminal.png" label="myprogram">something</Program>`

you will get a new entry to the right click menu stating an object called myprogram which executes a program called something when clicked. As you can see you should not worry too much about program icons which you can of course configure and use if you like but there is no obligation of course.

## 2. Visual styles

One thing that might also interest regular users is the section visual styles which starts like this:

```
<!-- Visual Styles -->

<WindowStyle>

  <Font>*-fixed-*-r-*-10-*-*-*-*-*</Font>
  <Width>4</Width>
  <Height>20</Height>

  <Active>
    <Text>white</Text>
```

```
<!-- #DEBIAN
    <Title>#70849d:#2e3a67</Title>
-->
```

If you change the values and parameters in visual styles section, like colors and window height, you will see some changes appearing on Jwm. Tweaking visual styles can be quite tricky to begin with but however I do recommend on trying it out at some point, just to see how it goes.

### 3. Startup commands

If you are not using startx script you will be pleased to know that autostarting is easy in Jwm. More from starx see: <http://www.techtimejourney.net/?p=622>

The regular autostart entries are formed as something like this:

```
<!-- <StartupCommand></StartupCommand-->
<StartupCommand>volumeicon</StartupCommand>
<StartupCommand>/usr/bin/pulseaudio</StartupCommand>
<StartupCommand>setxkbmap fi</StartupCommand>
<StartupCommand>feh --bg-scale '/home/media/used/fro.jpg'</StartupCommand>
<StartupCommand>banshee --hide</StartupCommand>
<StartupCommand>conky</StartupCommand>
```

Do remember that if you have an entry of a currently not installed program inside autostart entries you can just leave it there. For example I do not have banshee installed currently so it will not be run regardless of its appearance inside autostart section.

Note: if you want to uncomment something (not being read by Jwm when running) put it in between the arrow marks <!-- --> . See above for an example.

### 4. Programs you would probably want to have to achieve functionality in Jwm

volumeicon → An applet taking care of keyboard multimedia keys

pulseaudio → Pulseaudio volume daemon

setxkbmap fi → Set the keymap correctly. You may want to change fi to en, for example, depending on your locale

feh --bg-scale '/home/tester/test/background.jpg' → Feh is a program which serves both as an image viewer and background setter. In the above example you would set a background found at /home/tester/test/background.jpg to be scaled as a desktop image.

pcmanfm → A lightweight file-manager for Linux.

firefox\iceweasel → A web browser. You can of course replace this with chromium or midori or any other you choose.

pavucontrol → A volume manager for pulseaudio

gnome-terminal → A terminal client. You might want to replace this with the lxterminal, rox-term, aterm or some other. Remember to tweak the terminal entry if you change the client.

vlc → A multimedia client to play sound and video files. If you want a more lightweight program take a look at parole: <http://goodies.xfce.org/projects/applications/parole>

gimp → An image manipulation program which may be omitted if not desired.

libreoffice → An office suite for Linux. Depending on your needs you might also consider abiword and gnumeric combination instead of libreoffice.

i3lock → Desktop lockdown utility.

The programs mentioned above are just a group of examples and you might consider adding and removing some depending on your needs.

### **To install all the programs in Ubuntu/Debian/Mint as sudo or root**

```
apt-get install pcmanfm volumeicon-alsa pulseaudio feh firefox pavucontrol gnome-terminal vlc gimp libreoffice i3lock
```

## **5. Mouse left-click menu: restart and exit commands**

One great feature of Jwm is that when you actually change the configuration you do not need to exit and re-run the desktop if you want to see how the changes applied inside your desktop. Once you click on the restart command (you click the left mouse button to see the menu) you can restart Jwm on the fly without actually exiting the desktop nor closing the programs you are currently running.

If you however use the exit command in the left-click menu Jwm will actually exit back to your login screen where you can shutdown or restart your computer. If you want to shutdown your computer from terminal type: `sudo halt -p`. If you want to restart your computer from terminal do: `sudo reboot`. If you are not using sudo then just execute the above commands as a root. More from terminal commands see: <http://www.techtimejourney.net/?p=630>

## **6. The Jwm configuration file**

**Note:** remember to change the setxkbmap fi entry if needed and definitely change the entry `feh --bg-scale '/home/tester/test/background.jpg'` to match your Linux box settings. Copy the entries below the line to a file called `.jwmrc` If you want to use conky which works well with Jwm see this for more details: <http://www.techtimejourney.net/?p=723>

---

```
<?xml version="1.0"?>
```

```
<JWM>
```

```
<!-- The root menu, if this is undefined you will not get a menu. -->
```

```
<!-- Additional RootMenu attributes: onroot, labeled, label -->
```

```
<RootMenu height="15" onroot="12">
```

```

<Program icon="terminal.png" label="Terminal">gnome-terminal</Program>
<Program icon="terminal.png" label="Pcmanfm">pcmanfm</Program>
<Program icon="terminal.png" label="Firefox">firefox</Program>
<Program icon="terminal.png" label="Sound">pavucontrol</Program>
<Program icon="terminal.png" label="Vlc">vlc</Program>
<Program icon="terminal.png" label="Gimp">gimp</Program>
<Program icon="terminal.png" label="Office">libreoffice</Program>
<!-- #DEBIAN
<Menu icon="folder.png" label="Applications">
  <Program icon="editor.png" label="Dia">dia</Program>
  <Program icon="www.png" label="Firefox">firefox</Program>
  <Program icon="gimp.png" label="Gimp">gimp</Program>
  <Program icon="mail.png" label="Mutt">
    xterm -e mutt
  </Program>
  <Program icon="word-processor.png" label="Open Office">
    ooffice
  </Program>
  <Program icon="chat.png" label="Pidgin">pidgin</Program>
  <Program icon="music.png" label="Rhythmbox">rhythmbox</Program>
  <Program icon="development.png" label="Xilinx ISE">
    /usr/local/xilinx/bin/ise
  </Program>
  <Program icon="video.png" label="Xine">gxine</Program>
</Menu>
<Menu icon="folder.png" label="Utilities">
  <Program icon="calculator.png" label="Calculator">xcalc</Program>
  <Program icon="font.png" label="Fonts">xfontsel</Program>
  <Program icon="viewer.png" label="Magnify">xmag</Program>
  <Program icon="programs.png" label="Synaptic">
    gksudo synaptic
  </Program>
  <Program icon="window.png" label="Window Properties">
    xprop | xmessage -file -
  </Program>
</Menu>
-->

<Include>/etc/jwm/debian-menu</Include>

<Separator/>
<Program icon="lock.png" label="Lock">
  i3lock
</Program>
<Separator/>
<Restart label="Restart" icon="restart.png"/>
<Exit label="Exit" confirm="true" icon="quit.png"/>

</RootMenu>

```

```

<Group>
  <Class>Pidgin</Class>
  <Option>sticky</Option>
</Group>

<Group>
  <Name>gkrellm</Name>
  <Option>nolist</Option>
  <Option>sticky</Option>
</Group>

<Group>
  <Name>xterm</Name>
  <Option>vmax</Option>
  <Option>icon:terminal.png</Option>
</Group>

<!-- Additional tray attributes: autohide, width, border, layer, layout -->
<Tray x="0" y="-1" height="32" autohide="false">

  <!-- Additional TrayButton attribute: label -->
  <TrayButton label="Start">root:1</TrayButton>

  <TrayButton label="_">showdesktop</TrayButton>

  <!-- Additional Pager attribute: labeled -->
  <Pager labeled="true"/>

  <TaskList maxwidth="256"/>

  <Dock/>

  <Clock format="%H:%M">xclock</Clock>

</Tray>

<!-- Visual Styles -->

<WindowStyle>

  <Font>*-fixed-*-*-*10-*-*-*-*-*</Font>
  <Width>4</Width>
  <Height>20</Height>

  <Active>
    <Text>white</Text>
<!-- #DEBIAN

```

```
<Title>#70849d:#2e3a67</Title>
-->
<Title>#3b1212:#7c6851</Title>
<Outline>black</Outline>
<Opacity>0.5</Opacity>
</Active>

<Inactive>
<Text>#aaaaaa</Text>
<Title>#808488:#303438</Title>
<Outline>black</Outline>
<Opacity>0.5:0.9:0.1</Opacity>
</Inactive>

</WindowStyle>

<TaskListStyle>
<Font>*-fixed-*-r-*-10-*-*-*-*-*</Font>
<ActiveForeground>black</ActiveForeground>
<ActiveBackground>white:#133296</ActiveBackground>
<Foreground>white</Foreground>
<Background>:black</Background>
</TaskListStyle>

<!-- Additional TrayStyle attribute: insert -->
<TrayStyle>
<Font>*-fixed-*-r-*-10-*-*-*-*-*</Font>
<Background>#1e1919</Background>
<Foreground>orange</Foreground>
<Opacity>0.75</Opacity>
</TrayStyle>

<PagerStyle>
<Outline>black</Outline>
<Foreground>gray90</Foreground>
<Background>#808488</Background>
<ActiveForeground>#70849d</ActiveForeground>
<ActiveBackground>#2e3a67</ActiveBackground>
</PagerStyle>

<MenuStyle>
<Font>*-fixed-*-r-*-10-*-*-*-*-*</Font>
<Foreground>white</Foreground>
<Background>#464542</Background>
<ActiveForeground>orange</ActiveForeground>
<ActiveBackground>#70849d:#2e3a67</ActiveBackground>
<Opacity>0.75</Opacity>
```

</MenuStyle>

<PopupStyle>

<Font>\*-fixed-\*-r-\*-\*-10-\*-\*-\*-\*-\*-\*</Font>

<Outline>black</Outline>

<Foreground>black</Foreground>

<Background>yellow</Background>

</PopupStyle>

<IconPath>

/usr/share/icons/wm-icons/32x32-gant

</IconPath>

<!-- Virtual Desktops -->

<!-- Desktop tags can be contained within Desktops for desktop names. -->

<Desktops width="4" height="2">

<!-- Default background. Note that a Background tag can be contained within a Desktop tag to give a specific background for that desktop.

-->

<Background type="image">/export0/images/formulae.jpg</Background>

</Desktops>

<!-- Double click speed (in milliseconds) -->

<DoubleClickSpeed>400</DoubleClickSpeed>

<!-- Double click delta (in pixels) -->

<DoubleClickDelta>2</DoubleClickDelta>

<!-- The focus model (sloppy or click) -->

<FocusModel>sloppy</FocusModel>

<!-- The snap mode (none, screen, or border) -->

<SnapMode distance="10">border</SnapMode>

<!-- The move mode (outline or opaque) -->

<MoveMode>opaque</MoveMode>

<!-- The resize mode (outline or opaque) -->

<ResizeMode>opaque</ResizeMode>

<!-- <StartupCommand></StartupCommand-->

<StartupCommand>volumeicon</StartupCommand>

<StartupCommand>/usr/bin/pulseaudio</StartupCommand>

<StartupCommand>setxkbmap fi</StartupCommand>

<StartupCommand>feh --bg-scale '/home/tester/test/background.jpg'</StartupCommand>

<StartupCommand>banshee --hide</StartupCommand>

<StartupCommand>conky</StartupCommand>

```
<!-- Key bindings -->
<Key key="Up">up</Key>
<Key key="Down">down</Key>
<Key key="Right">right</Key>
<Key key="Left">left</Key>
<Key key="h">left</Key>
<Key key="j">down</Key>
<Key key="k">up</Key>
<Key key="l">right</Key>
<Key key="Return">select</Key>
<Key key="Escape">escape</Key>

<Key mask="A" key="Tab">next</Key>
<Key mask="A" key="F4">close</Key>
<Key mask="A" key="#">desktop#</Key>
<Key mask="A" key="F1">root:1</Key>
<Key mask="A" key="F2">window</Key>
<Key mask="A" key="F10">maximize</Key>
<Key mask="A" key="Right">rdesktop</Key>
<Key mask="A" key="Left">ldesktop</Key>
<Key mask="A" key="Up">udesktop</Key>
<Key mask="A" key="Down">ddesktop</Key>

</JWM>
```