
Qtile Documentation

Release 0.10.4

Aldo Cortesi

January 19, 2016

1	Getting started	1
1.1	Installing Qtile	1
1.2	Configuration	4
2	Commands and scripting	15
2.1	Commands API	15
2.2	Scripting	18
2.3	qsh	18
3	Getting involved	21
3.1	Contributing	21
3.2	Hacking on Qtile	23
4	Miscellaneous	27
4.1	Reference	27
4.2	Frequently Asked Questions	46
4.3	License	46

Getting started

1.1 Installing Qtile

1.1.1 Distro Guides

Below are the preferred installation methods for specific distros. If you are running something else, please see *Installing From Source*.

Installing on Arch Linux

Qtile is available on the [AUR](#) as:

- [qtile](#) stable branch(release) of qtile.
- [qtile-python3-git](#) development branch of qtile.

Using an AUR Helper

The preferred way to install Qtile is with an [AUR helper](#). For example, if you use [yaourt](#):

```
# for release
yaourt -S qtile
# or for develop
yaourt -S qtile-python3-git
```

Using pacman

```
sudo pacman -S python pango python-cairocffi python-xcffib
```

Also you need one qtile package from the AUR:

- [qtile-python3-git](#)
- [qtile](#)

Installing AUR packages without helper

To install these packages, download the .tar.gz's from the AUR and run the following commands for each:

```
tar -xvzf <packagename>-<vernum>.tar.gz
cd <packagename>-<vernum>
makepkg -s
sudo pacman -U <packagename>
```

Please see the Arch Wiki for more information on installing packages from the AUR:

http://wiki.archlinux.org/index.php/AUR#Installing_packages

Installing on Fedora

Stable versions of Qtile are currently packaged for current versions of Fedora. To install this package, run:

```
dnf -y install qtile
```

Installing on Funtoo

Latest versions of Qtile are available on Funtoo with Python 2.7, 3.3, and 3.4 implementations. To install it, run:

```
emerge -av x11-wm/qtile
```

You can also install the development version from GitHub:

```
echo "x11-wm/qtile-9999 **" >> /etc/portage/package.accept_keywords
emerge -av qtile
```

Customize

You can customize your installation with the following useflags:

- dbus
- widget-google-calendar
- widget-imap
- widget-keyboardkbdd
- widget-launchbar
- widget-mpd
- widget-mpris
- widget-wlan

The dbus useflag is enabled by default. Disable it only if you know what it is and know you don't use/need it.

All widget-* useflags are disabled by default because these widgets require additional dependencies while not everyone will use them. Enable only widgets you need to avoid extra dependencies thanks to these useflags.

Visit [Funtoo Qtile documentation](#) for more details on Qtile installation on Funtoo.

Installing on Ubuntu

There are no packages for currently released versions of qtile. However, on wily and above (and debian unstable), the dependencies are available via:

```
sudo apt-get install python3-xcffib python3-cairocffi
```

And with those, qtile can be built via a normal `python setup.py install`.

PPA on Launchpad

Packages for old versions are available for 11.10 (Oneiric Ocelot), 12.04 (Precise Pangolin), 12.10 (Quantal Quetzal), 13.04 (Raring Ringtail), 13.10 (Saucy Salamander), 14.04 (Trusty Tahr), and 14.10 (Utopic Unicorn).

```
sudo apt-add-repository ppa:tycho-s/ppa
sudo apt-get update
sudo apt-get install qtile
```

1.1.2 Installing From Source

First, you need to install all of Qtile's dependencies (although some are optional/not needed depending on your Python version, as noted below).

xcffib

Qtile uses `xcffib` as an XCB binding, which has its own instructions for building from source. However, if you'd like to skip building it, you can install its dependencies, you will need `libxcb` and `libffi` with the associated headers (`libxcb-render0-dev` and `libffi-dev` on Ubuntu), and install it via PyPI:

```
pip install xcffib
```

cairocffi

Qtile uses `cairocffi` with XCB support via `xcffib`. You'll need `libcairo2`, the underlying library used by the binding. You should be sure before you install `cairocffi` that `xcffib` has been installed, otherwise the needed `cairo-xcb` bindings will not be built. Once you've got the dependencies installed, you can use the latest version on PyPI:

```
pip install cairocffi
```

pangocairo

You'll also need `libpangocairo`, which on Ubuntu can be installed via `sudo apt-get install libpangocairo-1.0-0`. Qtile uses this to provide text rendering (and binds directly to it via `ffi` with a small in-tree binding).

asyncio/trollius

Qtile uses the `asyncio` module as introduced in [PEP 3156](#) for its event loop. Based on your Python version, there are different ways to install this:

- Python `>=3.4`: The `asyncio` module comes as part of the standard library, so there is nothing more to install.

- Python 3.3: This has all the infrastructure needed to implement PEP 3156, but the `asyncio` module must be installed from the [Tulip project](#). This is done by calling:

```
pip install asyncio
```

Alternatively, you can install `trollius` (see next point).

- Python 2 and ≤ 3.2 (and 3.3 without `asyncio`): You will need to install [trollius](#), which backports the `asyncio` module functionality to work without the infrastructure introduced in PEP 3156. You can install this from PyPI:

```
pip install trollius
```

dbus/gobject

Until someone comes along and writes an `asyncio`-based `dbus` library, `qtile` will depend on `python-dbus` to interact with `dbus`. This means that if you want to use things like `notification-daemon` or `mpris` widgets, you'll need to install `python-gobject` and `python-dbus`. Qtile will run fine without these, although it will emit a warning that some things won't work.

Qtile

With the dependencies in place, you can now install `qtile`:

```
git clone git://github.com/qtile/qtile.git
cd qtile
sudo python setup.py install
```

Stable versions of Qtile can be installed from PyPI:

```
pip install qtile
```

As long as the necessary libraries are in place, this can be done at any point, however, it is recommended that you first install `xcffib` to ensure the `cairo-xcb` bindings are built (see above).

1.2 Configuration

Qtile is configured in Python. A script (`~/.config/qtile/config.py` by default) is evaluated, and a small set of configuration variables are pulled from its global namespace.

1.2.1 Configuration lookup order

Qtile looks in the following places for a configuration file, in order:

- The location specified by the `-c` argument.
- `$XDG_CONFIG_HOME/qtile/config.py`, if it is set
- `~/.config/qtile/config.py`
- It reads the module `libqtile.resources.default_config`, included by default with every Qtile installation.

1.2.2 Default Configuration

The `default configuration` is invoked when qtile cannot find a configuration file. In addition, if qtile is restarted via `qsh`, qtile will load the default configuration if the config file it finds has some kind of error in it. The documentation below describes the configuration lookup process, as well as what the key bindings are in the default config.

The default config is not intended to be suitable for all users; it's mostly just there so qtile does `/something/` when fired up, and so that it doesn't crash and cause you to lose all your work if you reload a bad config.

Key Bindings

The `mod` key for the default config is `mod4`, which is typically bound to the “Super” keys, which are things like the windows key and the mac command key. The basic operation is:

- `mod + k` or `mod + j`: switch windows on the current stack
- `mod + <space>`: put focus on the other pane of the stack (when in stack layout)
- `mod + <tab>`: switch layouts
- `mod + w`: close window
- `mod + <ctrl> + r`: restart qtile with new config
- `mod + <group name>`: switch to that group
- `mod + <shift> + <group name>`: send a window to that group
- `mod + <enter>`: start xterm
- `mod + r`: start a little prompt in the bar so users can run arbitrary commands

The default config defines one screen and 8 groups, one for each letter in `asdfuiop`. It has a basic bottom bar that includes a group box, the current window name, a little text reminder that you're using the default config, a system tray, and a clock.

The default configuration has several more advanced key combinations, but the above should be enough for basic usage of qtile.

Mouse Bindings

By default, holding your `mod` key and clicking (and holding) a window will allow you to drag it around as a floating window.

1.2.3 Configuration variables

A Qtile configuration consists of a file with a bunch of variables in it, which qtile imports and then runs as a python file to derive its final configuration. The documentation below describes the most common configuration variables; more advanced configuration can be found in the [qtile-examples](#) repository, which includes a number of real-world configurations that demonstrate how you can tune Qtile to your liking. (Feel free to issue a pull request to add your own configuration to the mix!)

Groups

A group is a container for a bunch of windows, analogous to workspaces in other window managers. Each client window managed by the window manager belongs to exactly one group. The `groups` config file variable should be initialized to a list of `DGroup` objects.

DGroup objects provide several options for group configuration. Groups can be configured to show and hide themselves when they're not empty, spawn applications for them when they start, automatically acquire certain groups, and various other options.

```
class libqtile.config.Match(title=None, wm_class=None, role=None, wm_type=None,
                           wm_instance_class=None, net_wm_pid=None)
```

Match for dynamic groups It can match by title, class or role.

```
__init__(title=None, wm_class=None, role=None, wm_type=None, wm_instance_class=None,
         net_wm_pid=None)
```

Match supports both regular expression objects (i.e. the result of `re.compile()`) or strings (match as a “include” match). If a window matches any of the things in any of the lists, it is considered a match.

Parameters

- **title** – things to match against the title (WM_NAME)
- **wm_class** – things to match against the second string in WM_CLASS atom
- **role** – things to match against the WM_ROLE atom
- **wm_type** – things to match against the WM_TYPE atom
- **wm_instance_class** – things to match against the first string in WM_CLASS atom
- **net_wm_pid** – things to match against the _NET_WM_PID atom (only int allowed in this rule)

```
class libqtile.config.Group(name, matches=None, exclusive=False, spawn=None, layout=None,
                           layouts=None, persist=True, init=True, layout_opts=None,
                           screen_affinity=None, position=9223372036854775807)
```

Represents a “dynamic” group. These groups can spawn apps, only allow certain Matched windows to be on them, hide when they're not in use, etc.

```
__init__(name, matches=None, exclusive=False, spawn=None, layout=None, layouts=None,
         persist=True, init=True, layout_opts=None, screen_affinity=None, position=9223372036854775807)
```

Parameters

- **name** (*string*) – the name of this group
- **matches** (default `None`) – list of `Match` objects whose windows will be assigned to this group
- **exclusive** (*boolean*) – when other apps are started in this group, should we allow them here or not?
- **spawn** (*string or list of strings*) – this will be `exec()` d when the group is created, you can pass either a program name or a list of programs to `exec()`
- **layout** (*string*) – the default layout for this group (e.g. ‘max’ or ‘stack’)
- **layouts** (*list*) – the group layouts list overriding global layouts
- **persist** (*boolean*) – should this group stay alive with no member windows?
- **init** (*boolean*) – is this group alive when qtile starts?
- **position** (*int*) – group position

```
libqtile.dgroups.simple_key_binder(mod, keynames=None)
```

Bind keys to mod+group position or to the keys specified as second argument.

Example

```
from libqtile.config import Group, Match
groups = [
    Group("a"),
    Group("b"),
    Group("c", matches=[Match(wm_class=["Firefox"])]),
]

# allow mod3+1 through mod3+0 to bind to groups; if you bind your groups
# by hand in your config, you don't need to do this.
from libqtile.dgroups import simple_key_binder
dgroups_key_binder = simple_key_binder("mod3")
```

Keys

The `keys` variable defines Qtile's key bindings. Individual key bindings are defined with `libqtile.config.Key` as demonstrated in the following example. Note that you may specify more than one callback functions.

```
from libqtile.config import Key

keys = [
    # Pressing "Meta + Shift + a".
    Key(["mod4", "shift", "a", callback, ...),

    # Pressing "Control + p".
    Key(["control", "p", callback, ...),

    # Pressing "Meta + Tab".
    Key(["mod4", "mod1", "Tab", callback, ...),
]
```

The above may also be written more concisely with the help of the `EzKey` helper class. The following example is functionally equivalent to the above:

```
from libqtile.config import EzKey as Key

keys = [
    Key("M-S-a", callback, ...),
    Key("C-p", callback, ...),
    Key("M-A-<Tab>", callback, ...),
]
```

The `EzKey` modifier keys (i.e. MASC) can be overwritten through the `EzKey.modifier_keys` dictionary. The defaults are:

```
modifier_keys = {
    'M': 'mod4',
    'A': 'mod1',
    'S': 'shift',
    'C': 'control',
}
```

The `command.lazy` object

`command.lazy` is a special helper object to specify a command for later execution. This object acts like the root of the object graph, which means that we can specify a key binding command with the same syntax used to call the command through a script or through `qsh`.

Example

```
from libqtile.config import Key
from libqtile.command import lazy

keys = [
    Key(
        ["mod1"], "k",
        lazy.layout.down()
    ),
    Key(
        ["mod1"], "j",
        lazy.layout.up()
    )
]
```

On most systems `mod1` is the Alt key - you can see which modifiers, which are enclosed in a list, map to which keys on your system by running the `xmodmap` command. This example binds `Alt-k` to the “down” command on the current layout. This command is standard on all the included layouts, and switches to the next window (where “next” is defined differently in different layouts). The matching “up” command switches to the previous window.

Modifiers include: “shift”, “lock”, “control”, “mod1”, “mod2”, “mod3”, “mod4”, and “mod5”. They can be used in combination by appending more than one modifier to the list:

```
Key(
    ["mod1", "control"], "k",
    lazy.layout.shuffle_down()
)
```

Lazy functions

This is overview of the commonly used functions for the key bindings.

General functions	function	description
	<code>lazy.spawn("application")</code>	Run the application
	<code>lazy.spawncmd()</code>	Open command prompt on the bar. See prompt widget.
	<code>lazy.restart()</code>	Restart Qtile and reload its config. It won't close your windows
	<code>lazy.shutdown()</code>	Close the whole Qtile

Group functions

function	description
<code>lazy.next_layout()</code>	Use next layout on the actual group
<code>lazy.prev_layout()</code>	Use previous layout on the actual group
<code>lazy.screen.next_group()</code>	Move to the group on the right
<code>lazy.screen.prev_group()</code>	Move to the group on the left
<code>lazy.screen.togglegroup()</code>	Move to the last visited group
<code>lazy.group["group_name"].toscreen()</code>	Move to the group called <code>group_name</code>
<code>lazy.layout.increase_ratio()</code>	Increase the space for master window at the expense of slave windows
<code>lazy.layout.decrease_ratio()</code>	Decrease the space for master window in the advantage of slave windows

Window functions

function	description
<code>lazy.window.kill()</code>	Close the focused window
<code>lazy.layout.next()</code>	Switch window focus to other pane(s) of stack
<code>lazy.window.togroup("group_name")</code>	Move focused window to the group called <code>group_name</code>
<code>lazy.window.toggle_floating()</code>	Put the focused window to/from floating mode
<code>lazy.window.toggle_fullscreen()</code>	Put the focused window to/from fullscreen mode

Special keys These are most commonly used special keys. For complete list please see [the code](#). You can create bindings on them just like for the regular keys. For example `Key(["mod1"], "F4", lazy.window.kill())`.

Return
BackSpace
Tab
space
Home, End
Left, Up, Right, Down
F1, F2, F3, ...
XF86AudioRaiseVolume
XF86AudioLowerVolume
XF86AudioMute
XF86AudioNext
XF86AudioPrev
XF86MonBrightnessUp
XF86MonBrightnessDown

Layouts

A layout is an algorithm for laying out windows in a group on your screen. Since Qtile is a tiling window manager, this usually means that we try to use space as efficiently as possible, and give the user ample commands that can be bound to keys to interact with layouts.

The `layouts` variable defines the list of layouts you will use with Qtile. The first layout in the list is the default. If you define more than one layout, you will probably also want to define key bindings to let you switch to the next and previous layouts.

See [Built-in Layouts](#) for a listing of available layouts.

Example

```
from libqtile import layout
layouts = [
    layout.Max(),
    layout.Stack(stacks=2)
]
```

Mouse

The mouse config file variable defines a set of global mouse actions, and is a list of `Click` and `Drag` objects, which define what to do when a window is clicked or dragged.

Example

```
from libqtile.config import Click, Drag
mouse = [
    Drag([mod], "Button1", lazy.window.set_position_floating(),
        start=lazy.window.get_position()),
    Drag([mod], "Button3", lazy.window.set_size_floating(),
        start=lazy.window.get_size()),
    Click([mod], "Button2", lazy.window.bring_to_front())
]
```

The above example can also be written more concisely with the help of the `EzClick` and `EzDrag` helpers:

```
from libqtile.config import EzClick as EzClick, EzDrag as Drag
mouse = [
    Drag("M-1", lazy.window.set_position_floating(),
        start=lazy.window.get_position()),
    Drag("M-3", lazy.window.set_size_floating(),
        start=lazy.window.get_size()),
    Click("M-2", lazy.window.bring_to_front())
]
```

Screens

The `screens` configuration variable is where the physical screens, their associated bars, and the widgets contained within the bars are defined.

See [Built-in Widgets](#) for a listing of available widgets.

Example

Tying together screens, bars and widgets, we get something like this:

```
from libqtile.config import Screen
from libqtile import bar, widget

screens = [
    Screen(
        bottom=bar.Bar([
```

```

        widget.GroupBox(),
        widget.WindowName()
    ], 30),
),
Screen(
    bottom=bar.Bar([
        widget.GroupBox(),
        widget.WindowName()
    ], 30),
)
]

```

Bars support background colors and gradients, e.g. `bar.Bar(..., background="#000000")` will give you a black background (the default), while `bar.Bar(..., background=["#000000", "#FFFFFF"])` will give you a background that fades from black to white.

Third-party bars

There might be some reasons to use third-party bars. For instance you can come from another window manager and you have already configured `dzen2`, `xmobar`, or something else. They definitely can be used with Qtile too. In fact, any additional configurations aren't needed. Just run the bar and qtile will adapt.

Hooks

Qtile provides a mechanism for subscribing to certain events in `libqtile.hook`. To subscribe to a hook in your configuration, simply decorate a function with the hook you wish to subscribe to.

See [Built-in Hooks](#) for a listing of available hooks.

Examples

Automatic floating dialogs Let's say we wanted to automatically float all dialog windows (this code is not actually necessary; Qtile floats all dialogs by default). We would subscribe to the `client_new` hook to tell us when a new window has opened and, if the type is "dialog", as can set the window to float. In our configuration file it would look something like this:

```

from libqtile import hook

@hook.subscribe.client_new
def floating_dialogs(window):
    dialog = window.window.get_wm_type() == 'dialog'
    transient = window.window.get_wm_transient_for()
    if dialog or transient:
        window.floating = True

```

A list of available hooks can be found in the [Built-in Hooks](#) reference.

Autostart If you want to run commands or spawn some applications when Qtile starts, you'll want to look at the `startup` and `startup_once` hooks. `startup` is emitted every time Qtile starts (including restarts), whereas `startup_once` is only emitted on the very first startup.

Let's create a file `~/.config/qtile/autostart.sh` that will set our desktop wallpaper and start a few programs when Qtile first runs.

```
#!/bin/sh
feh --bg-scale ~/images/wallpaper.jpg &
pidgin &
dropbox start &
```

We can then subscribe to `startup_once` to run this script:

```
import os
import subprocess

@hook.subscribe.startup_once
def autostart():
    home = os.path.expanduser('~')
    subprocess.call([home + '/.config/qtile/autostart.sh'])
```

In addition to the above variables, there are several other boolean configuration variables that control specific aspects of Qtile’s behavior:

variable	de- fault	description
fol- low_mouse_focus	False	Controls whether or not focus follows the mouse around as it moves across windows in a layout.
bring_front_click	False	When clicked, should the window be brought to the front or not. (This sets the X Stack Mode to Above.)
cursor_warp	False	If true, the cursor follows the focus as directed by the keyboard, warping to the center of the focused window.
auto_fullscreen	True	If a window requests to be fullscreen, it is automatically fullscreened. Set this to false if you only want windows to be fullscreen if you ask them to be.

1.2.4 Testing your configuration

The best way to test changes to your configuration is with the provided Xephyr script. This will run Qtile with your `config.py` inside a nested X server and prevent your running instance of Qtile from crashing if something goes wrong.

See [Hacking Qtile](#) for more information on using Xephyr.

1.2.5 Starting Qtile

There are several ways to start Qtile. The most common way is via an entry in your X session manager’s menu. The default Qtile behavior can be invoked by creating a `qtile.desktop` file in `/usr/share/xsessions`.

A second way to start Qtile is a custom X session. This way allows you to invoke Qtile with custom arguments, and also allows you to do any setup you want (e.g. special keyboard bindings like mapping caps lock to control, setting your desktop background, etc.) before Qtile starts. If you’re using an X session manager, you still may need to create a `custom.desktop` file similar to the `qtile.desktop` file above, but with `Exec=/etc/X11/xsession`. Then, create your own `~/.xsession`. There are several examples of user defined `xsessions` in the [qtile-examples](#) repository.

Finally, if you’re a gnome user, you can start integrate Qtile into Gnome’s session manager and use gnome as usual:

Running Inside Gnome

Add the following snippet to your Qtile configuration. As per [this page](#), it registers Qtile with gnome-session. Without it, a “Something has gone wrong!” message shows up a short while after logging in. `dbus-send` must be on your

\$PATH.

```
import subprocess
import os

@hook.subscribe.startup
def dbus_register():
    x = os.environ['DESKTOP_AUTOSTART_ID']
    subprocess.Popen(['dbus-send',
                      '--session',
                      '--print-reply=string',
                      '--dest=org.gnome.SessionManager',
                      '/org/gnome/SessionManager',
                      'org.gnome.SessionManager.RegisterClient',
                      'string:qtile',
                      'string:' + x])
```

This adds a new entry “Qtile GNOME” to GDM’s login screen.

```
$ cat /usr/share/xsessions/qtile_gnome.desktop
[Desktop Entry]
Name=Qtile GNOME
Comment=Tiling window manager
TryExec=/usr/bin/gnome-session
Exec=gnome-session --session=qtile
Type=XSession
```

The custom session for gnome-session.

```
$ cat /usr/share/gnome-session/sessions/qtile.session
[GNOME Session]
Name=Qtile session
RequiredComponents=qtile;gnome-settings-daemon;
```

So that Qtile starts automatically on login.

```
$ cat /usr/share/applications/qtile.desktop
[Desktop Entry]
Type=Application
Encoding=UTF-8
Name=Qtile
Exec=qtile
NoDisplay=true
X-GNOME-WMName=Qtile
X-GNOME-Autostart-Phase=WindowManager
X-GNOME-Provides=windowmanager
X-GNOME-Autostart-Notify=false
```

The above does not start gnome-panel. Getting gnome-panel to work requires some extra Qtile configuration, mainly making the top and bottom panels static on panel startup and leaving a gap at the top (and bottom) for the panel window.

You might want to add keybindings to log out of the GNOME session.

```
Key([mod, 'control'], 'l', lazy.spawn('gnome-screensaver-command -l')),
Key([mod, 'control'], 'q', lazy.spawn('gnome-session-quit --logout --no-prompt')),
Key([mod, 'shift', 'control'], 'q', lazy.spawn('gnome-session-quit --power-off')),
```

The above apps need to be in your path (though they are typically installed in /usr/bin, so they probably are if they’re installed at all).

Commands and scripting

2.1 Commands API

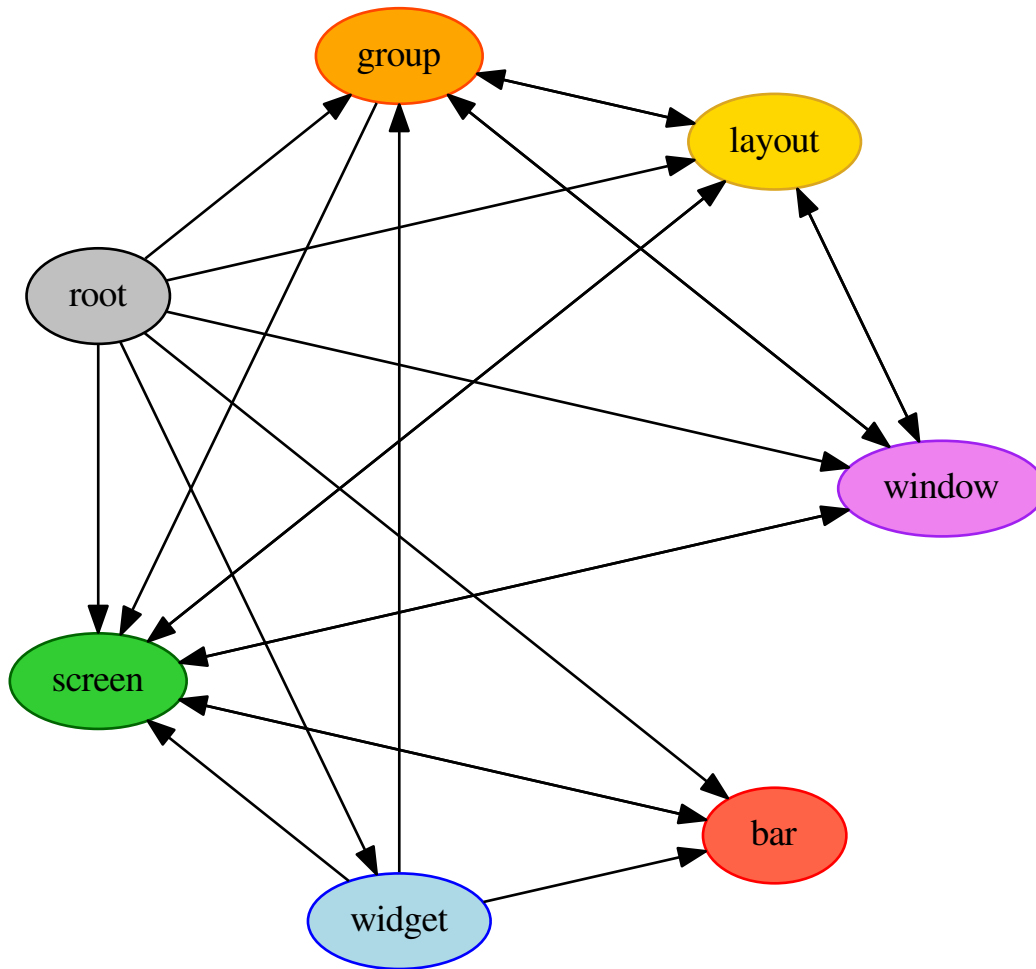
Qtile's command API is based on a graph of objects, where each object has a set of associated commands. The graph and object commands are used in a number of different places:

- Commands can be [bound to keys](#) in the Qtile configuration file.
- Commands can be [called through qsh](#), the Qtile shell.
- Commands can be [called from a script](#) to interact with Qtile from Python.

If the explanation below seems a bit complex, please take a moment to explore the API using the `qsh` command shell. Command lists and detailed documentation can be accessed from its built-in help command.

2.1.1 Object Graph

The objects in Qtile's object graph come in seven flavours, matching the seven basic components of the window manager: layouts, windows, groups, bars, widgets, screens, and a special root node. Objects are addressed by a path specification that starts at the root, and follows the edges of the graph. This is what the graph looks like:



Each arrow can be read as “holds a reference to”. So, we can see that a `widget` object *holds a reference to* objects of type `bar`, `screen` and `group`. Lets start with some simple examples of how the addressing works. Which particular objects we hold reference to depends on the context - for instance, widgets hold a reference to the screen that they appear on, and the bar they are attached to.

Lets look at an example, starting at the root node. The following script runs the `status` command on the root node, which, in this case, is represented by the `Client` object:

```
from libqtile.command import Client
c = Client()
print c.status()
```

From the graph, we can see that the root node holds a reference to `group` nodes. We can access the “info” command on the current group like so:

```
c.group.info()
```

To access a specific group, regardless of whether or not it is current, we use the Python containment syntax. This

command sends group “b” to screen 1:

```
c.group["b"].to_screen(1)
```

The current group, layout, screen and window can be accessed by simply leaving the key specifier out. The key specifier is mandatory for widget and bar nodes.

We can now drill down deeper in the graph. To access the screen currently displaying group “b”, we can do this:

```
c.group["b"].screen.info()
```

Be aware, however, that group “b” might not currently be displayed. In that case, it has no associated screen, the path resolves to a non-existent node, and we get an exception:

```
libqtile.command.CommandError: No object screen in path 'group['b'].screen'
```

The graph is not a tree, since it can contain cycles. This path (redundantly) specifies the group belonging to the screen that belongs to group “b”:

```
c.group["b"].screen.group()
```

2.1.2 Keys

The key specifier for the various object types are as follows:

Object	Key	Optional?	Example
bar	“top”, “bottom”	No	c.screen.bar[“bottom”]
group	Name string	Yes	c.group[“one”] c.group
layout	Integer offset	Yes	c.layout[2] c.layout
screen	Integer offset	Yes	c.screen[1] c.screen
widget	Widget name	No	c.widget[“textbox”]
window	Integer window ID	Yes	c.window[123456] c.window

2.2 Scripting

2.2.1 Client-Server Scripting Model

Qtile has a client-server control model - the main Qtile instance listens on a named pipe, over which marshalled command calls and response data is passed. This allows Qtile to be controlled fully from external scripts. Remote interaction occurs through an instance of the `libqtile.command.Client` class. This class establishes a connection to the currently running instance of Qtile, and sources the user's configuration file to figure out which commands should be exposed. Commands then appear as methods with the appropriate signature on the `Client` object. The object hierarchy is described in the [Commands API](#) section of this manual. Full command documentation is available through the [Qtile Shell](#).

2.2.2 Example

Below is a very minimal example script that inspects the current qtile instance, and returns the integer offset of the current screen.

```
from libqtile.command import Client
c = Client()
print c.screen.info()["index"]
```

2.3 qsh

The Qtile command shell is a command-line shell interface that provides access to the full complement of Qtile command functions. The shell features command name completion, and full command documentation can be accessed from the shell itself. The shell uses GNU Readline when it's available, so the interface can be configured to, for example, obey VI keybindings with an appropriate `.inputrc` file. See the GNU Readline documentation for more information.

2.3.1 Navigating the Object Graph

The shell presents a filesystem-like interface to the object graph - the builtin “cd” and “ls” commands act like their familiar shell counterparts:

```
> ls
layout/  widget/  screen/  bar/      window/  group/

> cd bar

bar> ls
bottom/

bar> cd bottom

bar['bottom']> ls
screen/

bar['bottom']> cd ../..

> ls
layout/  widget/  screen/  bar/      window/  group/
```

Note that the shell provides a “short-hand” for specifying node keys (as opposed to children). The following is a valid shell path:

```
> cd group/4/window/31457314
```

The command prompt will, however, always display the Python node path that should be used in scripts and key bindings:

```
group['4'].window[31457314]>
```

2.3.2 Documentation

The shell help provides the canonical documentation for the Qtile API:

```
> cd layout/1

layout[1]> help
help command  -- Help for a specific command.

Builtins:
=====
cd  exit  help  ls  q  quit

Commands for this object:
=====
add          commands  current  delete  doc  down  get
info         items    next    previous  rotate  shuffle_down  shuffle_up
toggle_split up

layout[1]> help previous
previous()
Focus previous stack.
```

Getting involved

3.1 Contributing

3.1.1 Reporting bugs

Perhaps the easiest way to contribute to Qtile is to report any bugs you run into on the [github issue tracker](#).

Useful bug reports are ones that get bugs fixed. A useful bug report normally has two qualities:

1. **Reproducible.** If your bug is not reproducible it will never get fixed. You should clearly mention the steps to reproduce the bug. Do not assume or skip any reproducing step. Described the issue, step-by-step, so that it is easy to reproduce and fix.
2. **Specific.** Do not write a essay about the problem. Be Specific and to the point. Try to summarize the problem in minimum words yet in effective way. Do not combine multiple problems even they seem to be similar. Write different reports for each problem.

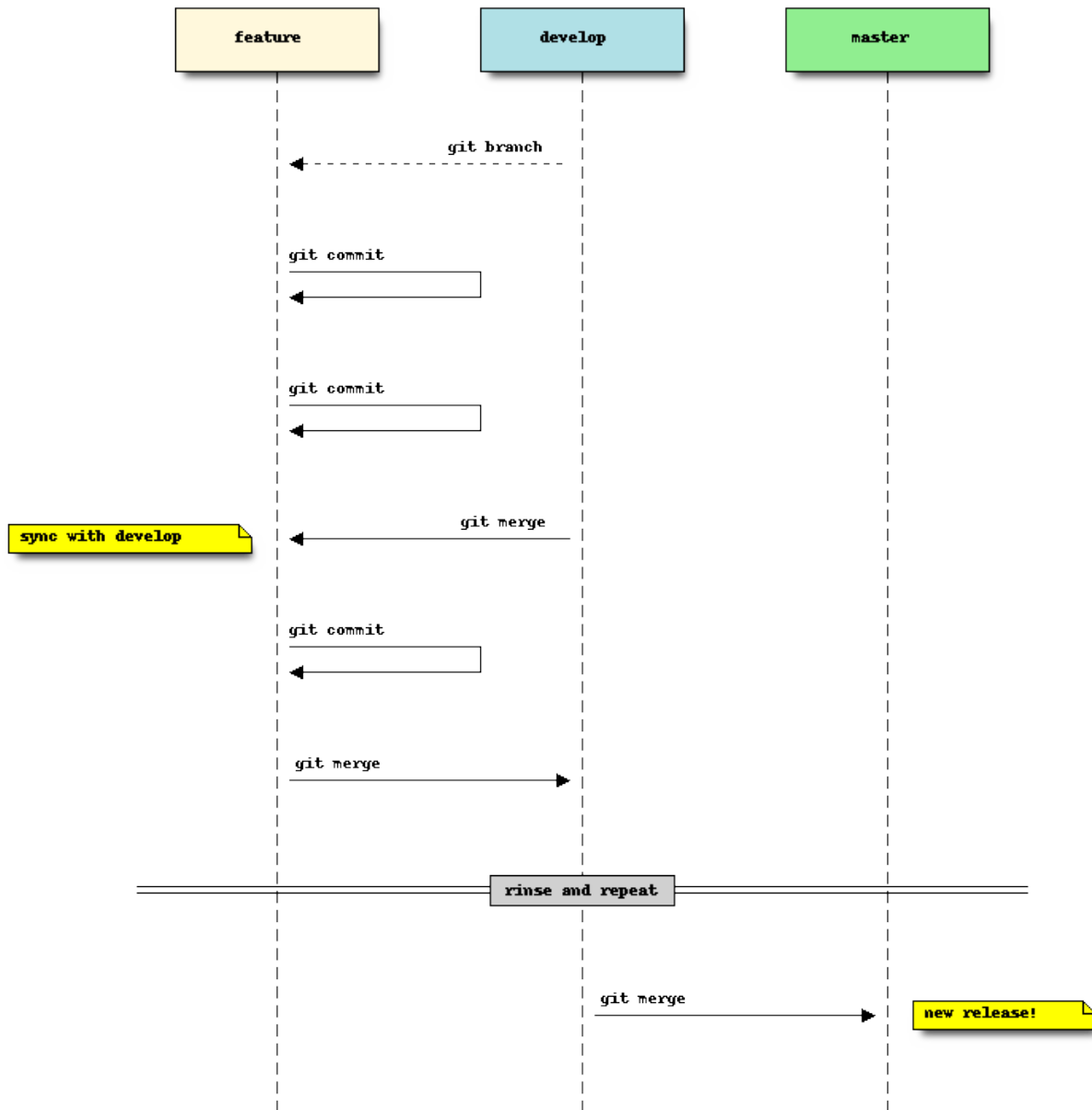
3.1.2 Writing code

To get started writing code for Qtile, check out our guide to [Hacking on Qtile](#).

Git workflow

Our workflow is based on Vincent Driessen's [successful git branching model](#):

- The `master` branch is our current release
- The `develop` branch is what all pull requests should be based against
- Feature branches are where new features, both major and minor, should be developed.



[git-flow](#) is a git plugin that helps facilitate this branching strategy. It's not required, but can help make things a bit easier to manage. There is also a good write up on [using git-flow](#).

We also request that git commit messages follow the [standard format](#).

Submit a pull request

You've done your hacking and are ready to submit your patch to Qtile. Great! Now it's time to submit a [pull request](#) to our [issue tracker](#) on Github.

Important: Pull requests are not considered complete until they include all of the following:

- **Code** that conforms to PEP8.

- **Unit tests** that pass locally and in our CI environment.
 - **Documentation** updates on an as needed basis.
-

Feel free to add your contribution (no matter how small) to the appropriate place in the CHANGELOG as well!

3.2 Hacking on Qtile

3.2.1 Requirements

Any reasonably recent version of these should work, so you can probably just install them from your package manager.

- [Nose](#)
- [Xephyr](#)
- `xeyes` and `xclock`

On ubuntu, this can be done with `sudo apt-get install python-nose xserver-xephyr x11-apps`.

3.2.2 Building cffi module

Qtile ships with a small in-tree pangocairo binding built using cffi, `pangocffi.py`, and also binds to `xcursor` with cffi. The bindings are not built at run time and will have to be generated manually when the code is downloaded or when any changes are made to the cffi library. This can be done by calling:

```
python libqtile/ffi_build.py
```

3.2.3 Using Xephyr and the test suite

Qtile has a very extensive test suite, using the Xephyr nested X server. When tests are run, a nested X server with a nested instance of Qtile is fired up, and then tests interact with the Qtile instance through the client API. The fact that we can do this is a great demonstration of just how completely scriptable Qtile is. In fact, Qtile is designed expressly to be scriptable enough to allow unit testing in a nested environment.

The Qtile repo includes a tiny helper script to let you quickly pull up a nested instance of Qtile in Xephyr, using your current configuration. Run it from the top-level of the repository, like this:

```
./scripts/xephyr
```

In practice, the development cycle looks something like this:

1. make minor code change
2. run appropriate test: `nosetests --tests=test_module`
3. GOTO 1, until hackage is complete
4. run entire test suite: `nosetests`
5. commit

3.2.4 Second X Session

Some users prefer to test Qtile in a second, completely separate X session: Just switch to a new tty and run `startx` normally to use the `~/ .xinitrc` X startup script.

It's likely though that you want to use a different, customized startup script for testing purposes, for example `~/ .config/qtile/xinitrc`. You can do so by launching X with:

```
startx ~/ .config/qtile/xinitrc
```

`startx` deals with multiple X sessions automatically. If you want to use `xinit` instead, you need to first copy `/etc/X11/xinit/xserverrc` to `~/ .xserverrc`; when launching it, you have to specify a new session number:

```
xinit ~/ .config/qtile/xinitrc -- :1
```

Examples of custom X startup scripts are available in [qtile-examples](#).

3.2.5 Capturing an `xtrace`

Occasionally, a bug will be low level enough to require an `xtrace` of Qtile's conversations with the X server. To capture one of these, create an `xinitrc` or similar file with:

```
exec xtrace qtile >> ~/ .qtile.log
```

This will put the `xtrace` output in Qtile's logfile as well. You can then demonstrate the bug, and paste the contents of this file into the bug report.

3.2.6 Coding style

While not all of our code follows [PEP8](#), we do try to adhere to it where possible. All new code should be PEP8 compliant.

The `make lint` command will run a linter with our configuration over `libqtile` to ensure your patch complies with reasonable formatting constraints. We also request that git commit messages follow the [standard format](#).

3.2.7 Deprecation policy

When a widget API is changed, you should deprecate the change using `libqtile.widget.base.deprecated` to warn users, in addition to adding it to the appropriate place in the changelog. We will typically remove deprecated APIs one tag after they are deprecated.

3.2.8 Testing

Of course, your patches should also pass the unit tests as well (i.e. `make check`). These will be run by `travis-ci` on every pull request so you can see whether or not your contribution passes.

3.2.9 Resources

Here are a number of resources that may come in handy:

- [Inter-Client Conventions Manual](#)

- [Extended Window Manager Hints](#)
- [A reasonable basic Xlib Manual](#)

Miscellaneous

4.1 Reference

4.1.1 Built-in Hooks

`subscribe.client_urgent_hint_changed (func)`

Called when the client urgent hint changes.

`subscribe.client_name_updated (func)`

Called when the client name changes.

`subscribe.net_wm_icon_change (func)`

Called on `_NET_WM_ICON` change.

`subscribe.startup_once (func)`

Called when Qtile has initialized, exactly once (i.e. not on each `lazy.restart()`).

`subscribe.float_change (func)`

Called when a change in float state is made

`subscribe.client_type_changed (func)`

Called whenever window type changes.

`subscribe.addgroup (func)`

Called when group is added.

`subscribe.client_killed (func)`

Called after a client has been unmanaged.

•arguments: `window.Window` object of the killed window.

`subscribe.client_managed (func)`

Called after Qtile starts managing a new client. That is, after a window is assigned to a group, or when a window is made static. This hook is not called for internal windows.

•arguments: `window.Window` object

`subscribe.client_new (func)`

Called before Qtile starts managing a new client. Use this hook to declare windows static, or add them to a group on startup. This hook is not called for internal windows.

•arguments: `window.Window` object

Example:

```
def func(c):
    if c.name == "xterm":
        c.togroup("a")
    elif c.name == "dzen":
        c.static(0)

libqtile.hook.subscribe.client_new(func)
```

`subscribe.group_window_add(func)`

Called when a new window is added to a group.

`subscribe.selection_change(func)`

Called on selection change.

`subscribe.focus_change(func)`

Called when focus is changed.

`subscribe.delgroup(func)`

Called when group is deleted.

`subscribe.changegroup(func)`

Called whenever a group change occurs.

`subscribe.client_mouse_enter(func)`

Called when the mouse enters a client.

`subscribe.current_screen_change(func)`

Called when the current screen (i.e. the screen with focus) changes; no arguments.

`subscribe.client_focus(func)`

Called whenever focus changes.

•arguments: `window.Window` object of the new focus.

`subscribe.window_name_change(func)`

Called whenever a windows name changes.

`subscribe.client_state_changed(func)`

Called whenever client state changes.

`subscribe.selection_notify(func)`

Called on selection notify.

`subscribe.screen_change(func)`

Called when a screen is added or screen configuration is changed (via `xrandr`). The hook should take two arguments: the root qtile object and the `xproto.randr.ScreenChangeNotify` event. Common usage is simply to call `qtile.cmd_restart()` on each event (to restart qtile when there is a new monitor):

Example:

```
def restart_on_randr(qtile, ev):
    qtile.cmd_restart()
```

`subscribe.setgroup(func)`

Called when group is changed.

`subscribe.layout_change(func)`

Called on layout change.

`subscribe.startup(func)`

Called each time qtile is started (including the first time qtile starts)

4.1.2 Built-in Layouts

class libqtile.layout.floating.**Floating** (*float_rules=None, **config*)

Floating layout, which does nothing with windows but handles focus order

key	default	description
border_focus	'#0000ff'	Border colour for the focused window.
border_normal	'#000000'	Border colour for un-focused winows.
border_width	1	Border width.
max_border_width	0	Border width for maximize.
fullscreen_border_width	0	Border width for fullscreen.
name	'floating'	Name of this layout.
auto_float_types	{ 'toolbar', 'notification', 'dialog', 'splash', 'utility' }	default wm types to automatically float

__init__ (*float_rules=None, **config*)

If you have certain apps that you always want to float you can provide `float_rules` to do so. `float_rules` is a list of dictionaries containing some or all of the keys:

```
{'wname': WM_NAME, 'wmclass': WM_CLASS, 'role': WM_WINDOW_ROLE}
```

The keys must be specified as above. You only need one, but you need to provide the value for it. When a new window is opened it's `match` method is called with each of these rules. If one matches, the window will float. The following will float gimp and skype:

```
float_rules=[dict(wmclass="skype"), dict(wmclass="gimp")]
```

Specify these in the `floating_layout` in your config.

class libqtile.layout.matrix.**Matrix** (*columns=2, **config*)

This layout divides the screen into a matrix of equally sized cells and places one window in each cell. The number of columns is configurable and can also be changed interactively.

key	default	description
border_focus	'#0000ff'	Border colour for the focused window.
border_normal	'#000000'	Border colour for un-focused winows.
border_width	1	Border width.
name	'matrix'	Name of this layout.
margin	0	Margin of the layout

class libqtile.layout.max.**Max** (***config*)

A simple layout that only displays one window at a time, filling the screen. This is suitable for use on laptops and other devices with small screens. Conceptually, the windows are managed as a stack, with commands to switch to next and previous windows in the stack.

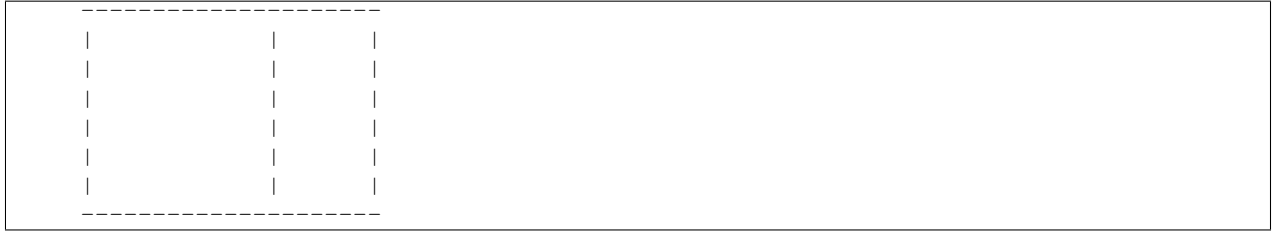
key	default	description
name	'max'	Name of this layout.

class libqtile.layout.xmonad.**MonadTall** (***config*)

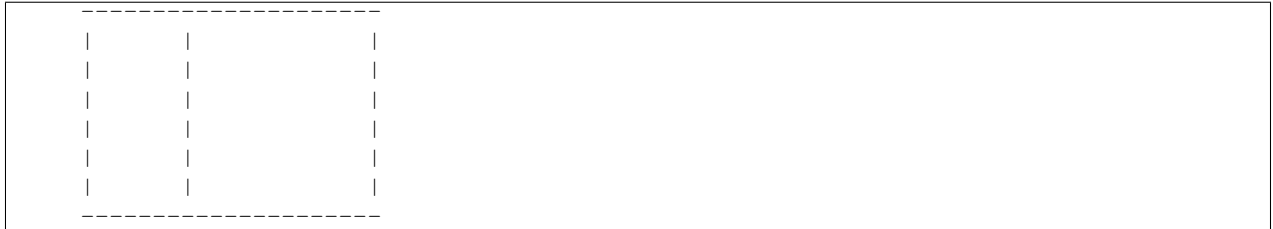
This layout attempts to emulate the behavior of XMonad's default tiling scheme.

Main-Pane:

A main pane that contains a single window takes up a vertical portion of the screen based on the ratio setting. This ratio can be adjusted with the `cmd_grow` and `cmd_shrink` methods while the main pane is in focus.

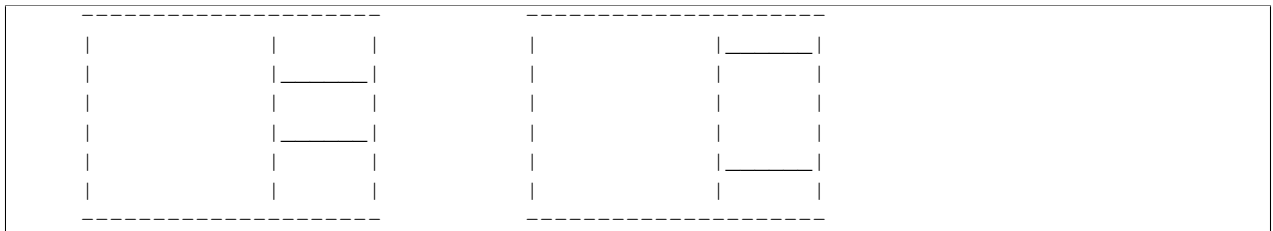


Using the `cmd_flip` method will switch which horizontal side the main pane will occupy. The main pane is considered the “top” of the stack.



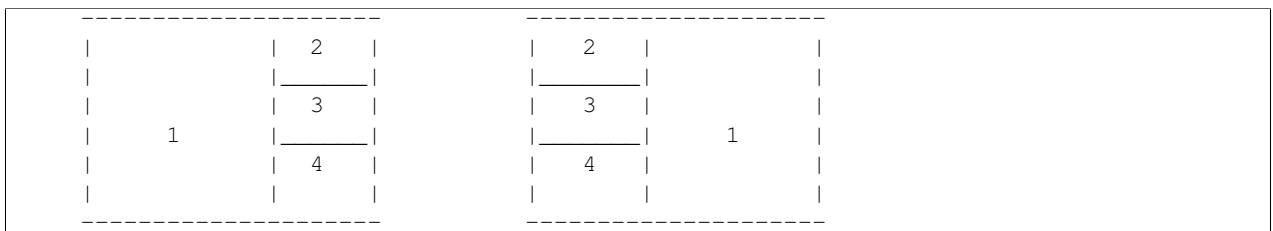
Secondary-panes:

Occupying the rest of the screen are one or more secondary panes. The secondary panes will share the vertical space of the screen however they can be resized at will with the `cmd_grow` and `cmd_shrink` methods. The other secondary panes will adjust their sizes to smoothly fill all of the space.



Panes can be moved with the `cmd_shuffle_up` and `cmd_shuffle_down` methods. As mentioned the main pane is considered the top of the stack; moving up is counter-clockwise and moving down is clockwise.

The opposite is true if the layout is “flipped”.



Normalizing:

To restore all client windows to their default size ratios simply use the `cmd_normalize` method.

Maximizing:

To toggle a client window between its minimum and maximum sizes simply use the `cmd_maximize` on a focused client.

Suggested Bindings:

```
Key([modkey], "h", lazy.layout.left()),
Key([modkey], "l", lazy.layout.right()),
```

```

Key([modkey], "j", lazy.layout.down()),
Key([modkey], "k", lazy.layout.up()),
Key([modkey], "shift", "h", lazy.layout.swap_left()),
Key([modkey], "shift", "l", lazy.layout.swap_right()),
Key([modkey], "shift", "j", lazy.layout.shuffle_down()),
Key([modkey], "shift", "k", lazy.layout.shuffle_up()),
Key([modkey], "i", lazy.layout.grow()),
Key([modkey], "m", lazy.layout.shrink()),
Key([modkey], "n", lazy.layout.normalize()),
Key([modkey], "o", lazy.layout.maximize()),
Key([modkey], "shift", "space", lazy.layout.flip()),

```

key	default	description
border_focus	'#ff0000'	Border colour for the focused window.
border_normal	'#000000'	Border colour for un-focused windows.
border_width	2	Border width.
single_border_width	None	Border width for single window
name	'xmonad-tall'	Name of this layout.
margin	0	Margin of the layout
ratio	0.5	The percent of the screen-space the master pane should occupy by default.
align	0	Which side master plane will be placed (one of <code>MonadTall._left</code> or <code>MonadTall._right</code>)
change_ratio	0.05	Resize ratio
change_size	20	Resize change in pixels

class `libqtile.layout.ratiotile.RatioTile` (**config)

Tries to tile all windows in the width/height ratio passed in

key	default	description
border_focus	'#0000ff'	Border colour for the focused window.
border_normal	'#000000'	Border colour for un-focused windows.
border_width	1	Border width.
name	'ratiotile'	Name of this layout.
margin	0	Margin of the layout
ratio	1.618	Ratio of the tiles
ratio_increment	0.1	Amount to increment per ratio increment
fancy	False	Use a different method to calculate window sizes.

class `libqtile.layout.slice.Slice` (**config)

Slice layout

This layout cuts piece of screen and places a single window on that piece, and delegates other window placement to other layout

key	default	description
width	256	Slice width
side	'left'	Side of the slice (left, right, top, bottom)
name	'max'	Name of this layout.
wname	None	WM_NAME to match
wmclass	None	WM_CLASS to match
role	None	WM_WINDOW_ROLE to match
fallback	<libqtile.layout.max.Max object at 0x7ff7cb72c978>	Fallback layout

class libqtile.layout.stack.**Stack**(**config)

The stack layout divides the screen horizontally into a set of stacks. Commands allow you to switch between stacks, to next and previous windows within a stack, and to split a stack to show all windows in the stack, or unsplit it to show only the current window. At the moment, this is the most mature and flexible layout in Qtile.

key	default	description
border_focus	'#0000ff'	Border colour for the focused window.
border_normal	'#000000'	Border colour for un-focused winows.
border_width	1	Border width.
name	'stack'	Name of this layout.
autosplit	False	Auto split all new stacks.
num_stacks	2	Number of stacks.
fair	False	Add new windows to the stacks in a round robin way.
margin	0	Margin of the layout

class libqtile.layout.tile.**Tile**(ratio=0.618, masterWindows=1, expand=True, ratio_increment=0.05, add_on_top=True, shift_windows=False, master_match=None, **config)

key	default	description
border_focus	'#0000ff'	Border colour for the focused window.
border_normal	'#000000'	Border colour for un-focused winows.
border_width	1	Border width.
name	'tile'	Name of this layout.
margin	0	Margin of the layout

class libqtile.layout.tree.**TreeTab**(**config)

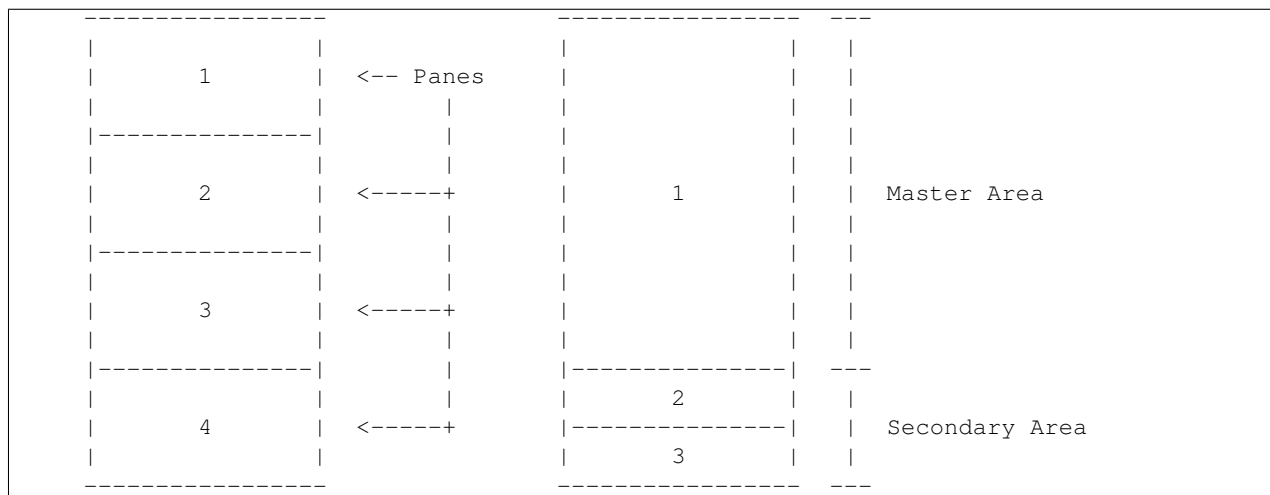
Tree Tab Layout

This layout works just like Max but displays tree of the windows at the left border of the screen, which allows you to overview all opened windows. It's designed to work with `uzbl-browser` but works with other windows too.

key	default	description
bg_color	'000000'	Background color of tabs
active_bg	'000080'	Background color of active tab
active_fg	'ffffff'	Foreground color of active tab
inactive_bg	'606060'	Background color of inactive tab
inactive_fg	'ffffff'	Foreground color of inactive tab
margin_left	6	Left margin of tab panel
margin_y	6	Vertical margin of tab panel
padding_left	6	Left padding for tabs
padding_x	6	Left padding for tab label
padding_y	2	Top padding for tab label
border_width	2	Width of the border
vspace	2	Space between tabs
level_shift	8	Shift for children tabs
font	'Arial'	Font
fontsize	14	Font pixel size.
fontshadow	None	font shadow color, default is None (no shadow)
section_fontsize	11	Font pixel size of section label
section_fg	'ffffff'	Color of section label
section_top	4	Top margin of section label
section_bottom	6	Bottom margin of section
section_padding	4	Bottom of margin section label
section_left	4	Left margin of section label
panel_width	150	Width of the left panel
sections	['Default']	Foreground color of inactive tab
name	'treetab'	Name of this layout.
previous_on_rm	False	Focus previous window on close instead of first.

class `libqtile.layout.verticaltile.VerticalTile` (**config)

VerticalTile implements a tiling layout that works nice on vertically mounted monitors. The available height gets divided by the number of panes, if no pane is maximized. If one pane has been maximized, the available height gets split in master- and secondary area. The maximized pane (master pane) gets the full height of the master area and the other panes (secondary panes) share the remaining space. The master area (at default 75%) can grow and shrink via keybindings.



```

-----
|                                     | In some cases VerticalTile can be
|               1                   | useful on horizontal mounted
|                                     | monitors two.
|-----| For example if you want to have a
|               2                   | webbrowser and a shell below it.
|                                     |
|                                     |
|-----|

```

Suggested keybindings:

```

Key([modkey], 'j', lazy.layout.down()),
Key([modkey], 'k', lazy.layout.up()),
Key([modkey], 'Tab', lazy.layout.next()),
Key([modkey], 'shift', 'Tab', lazy.layout.next()),
Key([modkey], 'shift', 'j', lazy.layout.shuffle_down()),
Key([modkey], 'shift', 'k', lazy.layout.shuffle_up()),
Key([modkey], 'm', lazy.layout.maximize()),
Key([modkey], 'n', lazy.layout.normalize()),

```

key	default	description
border_focus	'#FF0000'	Border color for the focused window.
border_normal	'#FFFFFF'	Border color for un-focused winows.
border_width	1	Border width.
margin	0	Border margin.
name	'VerticalTile'	Name of this layout.

class libqtile.layout.zoomy.**Zoomy** (**config)

A layout with single active windows, and few other previews at the right

key	default	description
columnwidth	150	Width of the right column
property_name	'ZOOM'	Property to set on zoomed window
property_small	'0.1'	Property value to set on zoomed window
property_big	'1.0'	Property value to set on normal window
margin	0	Margin of the layout

4.1.3 Built-in Widgets

class libqtile.widget.**AGroupBox** (**config)

A widget that graphically displays the current group.

Supported bar orientations: horizontal only

key	default	description
border	'000000'	group box border color

class libqtile.widget.**Backlight** (**config)

A simple widget to show the current brightness of a monitor.

Supported bar orientations: horizontal only

key	default	description
backlight_name	'acpi_video0'	ACPI name of a backlight device
brightness_file	'brightness'	Name of file with the current brightness in /sys/class/backlight/backlight_name
max_brightness_file	'max_brightness'	Name of file with the maximum brightness in /sys/class/backlight/backlight_name
update_interval	0.2	The delay in seconds between updates

class libqtile.widget.**Battery** (**config)
A simple but flexible text-based battery widget.

Supported bar orientations: horizontal only

key	default	description
charge_char	'^'	Character to indicate the battery is charging
discharge_char	'v'	Character to indicate the battery is discharging
error_message	'Error'	Error message if something is wrong
format	'{char} {percent:2.0%} {hour:d}:{min:02d}'	Display format
hide_threshold	None	Hide the text when there is enough energy
low_percentage	0.1	Indicates when to use the low_foreground color $0 < x < 1$
low_foreground	'@F0000'	Font color on low battery

class libqtile.widget.**BatteryIcon** (**config)
Battery life indicator widget.

Supported bar orientations: horizontal only

key	default	description
theme_path	home/docs/checkouts/readthedocs.org/user_builds/qtile/docs/v0.10.4/libqtile	Path of the icons
custom_icons		dict containing key->filename icon map

class libqtile.widget.**BitcoinTicker** (**config)
A bitcoin ticker widget, data provided by the btc-e.com API. Defaults to displaying currency in whatever the current locale is. Examples:

```
# display the average price of bitcoin in local currency
widget.BitcoinTicker(format="BTC: {avg}")

# display the average price of litecoin in local currency
widget.BitcoinTicker(format="LTC: {avg}", source_currency='ltc')

# display the average price of litecoin in bitcoin
widget.BitcoinTicker(format="BTC: B{avg}", source_currency='ltc', currency='btc', round=False)
```

Supported bar orientations: horizontal only

key	default	description
currency	' '	The currency the value that bitcoin is displayed in
source_currency	'btc'	The source currency to convert from
round	True	whether or not to use locale.currency to round the values
format	'BTC Buy: {buy}, Sell: {sell}'	Display format, allows buy, sell, high, low, avg, vol, vol_cur, last, variables.

class libqtile.widget.**CPUGraph** (**config)

Display CPU usage graph.

Supported bar orientations: horizontal only

key	default	description
core	'all'	Which core to show (all/0/1/2/...)

class libqtile.widget.**Canto** (**config)

Display RSS feeds updates using the canto console reader.

Supported bar orientations: horizontal only

key	default	description
fetch	False	Whether to fetch new items on update
feeds	[]	List of feeds to display, empty for all
one_format	'{name}: {number}'	One feed display format
all_format	'{number}'	All feeds display format

class libqtile.widget.**CheckUpdates** (**config)

Shows number of pending updates in different unix systems.

Supported bar orientations: horizontal only

key	default	description
distro	'Arch'	Name of your distribution
update_interval	60	Update interval in seconds.
execute	None	Command to execute on click
display_format	'Updates: {updates}'	Display format if updates available
colour_no_updates	'ffffff'	Colour when there's no updates.
colour_have_updates	'ffffff'	Colour when there are updates.

class libqtile.widget.**Clipboard** (width=CALCULATED, **config)

Display current clipboard contents.

Supported bar orientations: horizontal only

key	default	description
selection	'CLIPBOARD'	The selection to display (CLIPBOARD or PRIMARY)
max_width	10	maximum number of characters to display (None for all, useful when width is bar.STRETCH)
timeout	10	Default timeout (seconds) for display text, None to keep forever
blacklist	['keepassx']	list with blacklisted wm_class, sadly not every clipboard window sets them, keepassx does. Clipboard contents from blacklisted wm_classes will be replaced by the value of blacklist_text.
blacklist_text	'***text***'	text to display when the wm_class is blacklisted

class libqtile.widget.**Clock** (**config)

A simple but flexible text-based clock.

Supported bar orientations: horizontal only

key	default	description
format	'%H:%M'	A Python datetime format string
update_interval	1	Update interval for the clock
timezone	None	The timezone to use for this clock, e.g. "US/Central" (or anything in /usr/share/zoneinfo). None means the default timezone.

class libqtile.widget.**Cmus** (**config)

A simple Cmus widget.

Show the artist and album of now listening song and allow basic mouse control from the bar:

- toggle pause (or play if stopped) on left click;
- skip forward in playlist on scroll up;
- skip backward in playlist on scroll down.

Cmus (<https://cmus.github.io>) should be installed.

Supported bar orientations: horizontal only

key	default	description
play_color	'00ff00'	Text colour when playing.
noplay_color	'cecece'	Text colour when not playing.
max_chars	0	Maximum number of characters to display in widget.
update_interval	0.5	Update Time in seconds.

class libqtile.widget.**Countdown** (**config)

A simple countdown timer text widget.

Supported bar orientations: horizontal only

key	default	description
format	'{D}d {H}h {M}m {S}s'	Format of the displayed text. Available variables: {D} == days, {H} == hours, {M} == minutes, {S} seconds.
update_interval	1	Update interval in seconds for the clock
date	datetime.datetime(2016, 1, 19, 16, 0, 16, 550342)	The datetime for the endo of the countdown

class libqtile.widget.**CurrentLayout** (width=CALCULATED, **config)

Display the name of the current layout of the current group of the screen, the bar containing the widget, is on.

Supported bar orientations: horizontal only

key	default	description
font	'Arial'	Default font
fontsize	None	Font size. Calculated if None.
padding	None	Padding. Calculated if None.
foreground	'ffffff'	Foreground colour
fontshadow	None	font shadow color, default is None(no shadow)
markup	False	Whether or not to use pango markup

class libqtile.widget.**CurrentScreen** (width=CALCULATED, **config)

Indicates whether the screen this widget is on is currently active or not.

Supported bar orientations: horizontal only

key	default	description
active_text	'A'	Text displayed when the screen is active
inactive_text	'I'	Text displayed when the screen is inactive
active_color	'00ff00'	Color when screen is active
inactive_color	'ff0000'	Color when screen is inactive

class libqtile.widget.**DF** (**config)

Disk Free Widget

By default the widget only displays if the space is less than warn_space.

Supported bar orientations: horizontal only

key	default	description
partition	'/'	the partition to check space
warn_color	'ff0000'	Warning color
warn_space	2	Warning space in scale defined by the measure option.
visible_on_warn	True	Only display if warning
measure	'G'	Measurement (G, M, B)
format	'{p} ({uf} {m}) '	String format (p: partition, s: size, f: free space, uf: user free space, m: measure)
update_interval	60	The update interval.

class libqtile.widget.**DebugInfo** (**config)

Displays debugging infos about selected window

Supported bar orientations: horizontal only

key	default	description
font	'Arial'	Default font
fontsize	None	Font size. Calculated if None.
padding	None	Padding. Calculated if None.
foreground	'ffffff'	Foreground colour
fontshadow	None	font shadow color, default is None(no shadow)
markup	False	Whether or not to use pango markup

class libqtile.widget.**GenPollText** (**config)

A generic text widget that polls using poll function to get the text.

Supported bar orientations: horizontal only

key	default	description
func	None	Poll Function

class libqtile.widget.**GenPollUrl** (**config)

A generic text widget that polls an url and parses it using parse function.

Supported bar orientations: horizontal only

key	default	description
url	None	Url
data	None	Post Data
parse	None	Parse Function
json	True	Is Json?
user_agent	'Qtile'	Set the user agent
headers	{}	Extra Headers

class libqtile.widget.**GmailChecker** (**config)

A simple gmail checker.

Supported bar orientations: horizontal only

key	default	description
update_interval	30	Update time in seconds.
username	None	username
password	None	password
email_path	' INBOX'	email_path
fmt	' inbox[%s], unseen[%s] '	fmt
status_only_unseen	False	Only show unseen messages

class libqtile.widget.**GroupBox** (**config)

A widget that graphically displays the current group.

Supported bar orientations: horizontal only

key	default	description
active	' FFFFFFF'	Active group font colour
inactive	' 404040'	Inactive group font colour
highlight_method	'border'	Method of highlighting ('border', 'block', 'text', or 'line')Uses *_border color settings
rounded	True	To round or not to round box borders
this_current_screen	'005588'	Border or line colour for group on this screen when focused.
this_screen_border	' 215578'	Border or line colour for group on this screen when unfocused.
other_screen_border	' 404040'	Border or line colour for group on other screen.
highlight_color	['000000', ' 282828']	Active group highlight color when using 'line' highlight method.
urgent_alert_method	'border'	Method for alerting you of WM urgent hints (one of 'border', 'text', 'block', or 'line')
urgent_text	' FF0000'	Urgent group font color
urgent_border	' FF0000'	Urgent border or line color
disable_drag	False	Disable dragging and dropping of group names on widget
invert_mouse_wheel	False	Whether to invert mouse wheel group movement
visible_groups	None	Groups that will be visible (if set to None or [], all groups will be visible)

class libqtile.widget.**HDDBusyGraph** (**config)

Parses /sys/block/<dev>/stat file and extracts overall device IO usage, based on io_ticks's value. See <https://www.kernel.org/doc/Documentation/block/stat.txt>

Supported bar orientations: horizontal only

key	default	description
device	' sda'	Block device to display info for

class libqtile.widget.**HDDGraph** (**config)

Display HDD free or used space graph.

Supported bar orientations: horizontal only

key	default	description
path	' /'	Partition mount point.
space_type	' used'	free/used

class libqtile.widget.**Image** (length=CALCULATED, width=None, **config)

Display a PNG image on the bar.

Supported bar orientations: horizontal and vertical

key	default	description
scale	True	Enable/Disable image scaling
filename	None	PNG Image filename. Can contain '~'

class `libqtile.widget.KeyboardLayout` (**config)

Widget for changing and displaying the current keyboard layout. It requires `setxkbmap` to be available in the system.

Supported bar orientations: horizontal only

key	default	description
update_interval	1	Update time in seconds.
configured_keyboards	['us']	A list of predefined keyboard layouts represented as strings. For example: ['us', 'us colemak', 'es', 'fr'].

class `libqtile.widget.Maildir` (**config)

A simple widget showing the number of new mails in maildir mailboxes.

Supported bar orientations: horizontal only

key	default	description
maildirPath	~/Mail	'path to the Maildir folder
subFolders	[]	The subfolders to scan (e.g. [{"path": "INBOX", "label": "Home mail"}, {"path": "spam", "label": "Home junk"}])
separator	' '	the string to put between the subfolder strings.

class `libqtile.widget.Memory` (**config)

Displays memory usage.

Supported bar orientations: horizontal only

key	default	description
fmt	' {MemUsed}M/ {MemTotal}M'	see /proc/meminfo for field names

class `libqtile.widget.MemoryGraph` (**config)

Displays a memory usage graph.

Supported bar orientations: horizontal only

key	default	description
graph_color	'18BAEB'	Graph color
fill_color	'1667EB.3'	Fill color for linefill graph
border_color	'215578'	Widget border color
border_width	2	Widget border width
margin_x	3	Margin X
margin_y	3	Margin Y
samples	100	Count of graph samples.
frequency	1	Update frequency in seconds
type	'linefill'	'box', 'line', 'linefill'
line_width	3	Line width
start_pos	'bottom'	Drawer starting position ('bottom'/'top')

class `libqtile.widget.Moc` (**config)

A simple MOC widget.

Show the artist and album of now listening song and allow basic mouse control from the bar:

- toggle pause (or play if stopped) on left click;
- skip forward in playlist on scroll up;

- skip backward in playlist on scroll down.

MOC (<http://moc.daper.net>) should be installed.

Supported bar orientations: horizontal only

key	default	description
play_color	'00ff00'	Text colour when playing.
noplay_color	'cecece'	Text colour when not playing.
max_chars	0	Maximum number of characters to display in widget.
update_interval	0.5	Update Time in seconds.

class `libqtile.widget.Net` (***config*)

Displays interface down and up speed.

Supported bar orientations: horizontal only

key	default	description
interface	'wlan0'	The interface to monitor
update_interval	1	The update interval.

class `libqtile.widget.NetGraph` (***config*)

Display a network usage graph.

Supported bar orientations: horizontal only

key	default	description
interface	'auto'	Interface to display info for ('auto' for detection)
bandwidth_type	'down'	down(load)/up(load)

class `libqtile.widget.Notify` (*width=CALCULATED, **config*)

A notify widget.

Supported bar orientations: horizontal only

key	default	description
foreground_urgent	'ff0000'	Foreground urgent priority colour
foreground_low	'dddddd'	Foreground low priority colour
default_timeout	None	Default timeout (seconds) for notifications
audiofile	None	Audiofile played during notifications

class `libqtile.widget.Pacman` (***config*)

Shows number of available updates. Needs the pacman package manager installed. So will only work in Arch Linux installation.

Supported bar orientations: horizontal only

key	default	description
unavailable	'ffffff'	Unavailable Color - no updates.
execute	None	Command to execute on click
update_interval	60	The update interval.

class `libqtile.widget.Prompt` (*name='prompt', **config*)

A widget that prompts for user input. Input should be started using the `.startInput` method on this class.

Supported bar orientations: horizontal only

key	default	description
cursor	True	Show a cursor
cursorblink	0.5	Cursor blink rate. 0 to disable.
cursor_color	'bef098'	Color for the cursor and text over it.
prompt	'{prompt}:' ,	Text displayed at the prompt
record_history	True	Keep a record of executed commands
max_history	100	Commands to keep in history. 0 for no limit.
bell_style	'audible'	Alert at the begin/end of the command history. Possible values: 'audible', 'visual' and None.
visual_bell_color	'ff0000'	Color for the visual bell (changes prompt background).
visual_bell_time	0.2	Visual bell duration (in seconds).

class `libqtile.widget.Sep` (*height_percent=None, **config*)

A visible widget separator.

Supported bar orientations: horizontal and vertical

key	default	description
padding	2	Padding on either side of separator.
linewidth	1	Width of separator line.
foreground	'888888'	Separator line colour.
size_percent	80	Size as a percentage of bar size (0-100).

class `libqtile.widget.She` (***config*)

Widget to display the Super Hybrid Engine status. Can display either the mode or CPU speed on eeepc computers.

Supported bar orientations: horizontal only

key	default	description
device	' /sys/devices/platform/eeepc/cpusys'	sys path to cpufv
format	' speed'	Type of info to display "speed" or "name"
update_interval	0.5	Update Time in seconds.

class `libqtile.widget.Spacer` (*length=STRETCH, width=None*)

Just an empty space on the bar. Often used with length equal to bar.STRETCH to push bar widgets to the right or bottom edge of the screen.

Supported bar orientations: horizontal and vertical

key	default	description
background	None	Widget background color

`__init__` (*length=STRETCH, width=None*)

- length: Length of the widget. Can be either `bar.STRETCH` or a length in pixels.
- width: DEPRECATED, same as length.

class `libqtile.widget.SwapGraph` (***config*)

Display a swap info graph.

Supported bar orientations: horizontal only

key	default	description
graph_color	'18BAEB'	Graph color
fill_color	'1667EB.3'	Fill color for linefill graph
border_color	'215578'	Widget border color
border_width	2	Widget border width
margin_x	3	Margin X
margin_y	3	Margin Y
samples	100	Count of graph samples.
frequency	1	Update frequency in seconds
type	'linefill'	'box', 'line', 'linefill'
line_width	3	Line width
start_pos	'bottom'	Drawer starting position ('bottom'/'top')

class libqtile.widget.**Systray** (**config)

A widget that manages system tray.

Supported bar orientations: horizontal only

key	default	description
icon_size	20	Icon width
padding	5	Padding between icons

class libqtile.widget.**TaskList** (**config)

Displays the icon and name of each window in the current group. Contrary to WindowTabs this is an interactive widget. The window that currently has focus is highlighted.

Supported bar orientations: horizontal only

key	default	description
font	'Arial'	Default font
fontsize	None	Font size. Calculated if None.
foreground	'ffffff'	Foreground colour
fontshadow	None	font shadow color, default is None(no shadow)
borderwidth	2	Current group border width
border	'215578'	Border colour
rounded	True	To round or not to round borders
highlight_method	'border'	Method of highlighting (one of 'border' or 'block') Uses *_border color settings
urgent_border	'FF0000'	Urgent border color
urgent_alert_method	'border'	Method for alerting you of WM urgent hints (one of 'border' or 'text')
max_title_width	200	size in pixels of task title

class libqtile.widget.**TextBox** (text=' ', width=CALCULATED, **config)

A flexible textbox that can be updated from bound keys, scripts and qsh.

Supported bar orientations: horizontal only

key	default	description
font	'Arial'	Text font
fontsize	None	Font pixel size. Calculated if None.
fontshadow	None	font shadow color, default is None(no shadow)
padding	None	Padding left and right. Calculated if None.
foreground	'#ffffff'	Foreground colour.

class libqtile.widget.**ThermalSensor** (**config)

For using the thermal sensor widget you need to have lm-sensors installed. You can get a list of the tag_sensors

executing “sensors” in your terminal. Then you can choose which you want, otherwise it will display the first available.

Supported bar orientations: horizontal only

key	default	description
metric	True	True to use metric/C, False to use imperial/F
show_tag	False	Show tag sensor
update_interval	2	Update interval in seconds
tag_sensor	None	Tag of the temperature sensor. For example: “temp1” or “Core 0”
threshold	70	If the current temperature value is above, then change to foreground_alert colour
foreground_alert	'ff0000'	Foreground colour alert

class libqtile.widget.**Volume** (**config)

Widget that display and change volume if theme_path is set it draw widget as icons.

Supported bar orientations: horizontal only

key	default	description
cardid	None	Card Id
device	'default'	Device Name
channel	'Master'	Channel
padding	3	Padding left and right. Calculated if None.
theme_path	None	Path of the icons
update_interval	12	Update time in seconds.
emoji	False	Use emoji to display volume states, only if theme_path is not set. The specified font needs to contain the correct unicode characters.
mute_command	None	Mute command
volume_up_command	None	Volume up command
volume_down_command	None	Volume down command
get_volume_command	None	Command to get the current volume

class libqtile.widget.**Wallpaper** (**config)

Supported bar orientations: horizontal only

key	default	description
directory	' /home/docs/Pictures/wallpapers/'	Wallpaper Directory
wallpaper	None	Wallpaper
wallpaper_command	None	Wallpaper command

class libqtile.widget.**WindowName** (width=STRETCH, **config)

Displays the name of the window that currently has focus.

Supported bar orientations: horizontal only

key	default	description
show_state	True	show window status before window name

class libqtile.widget.**WindowTabs** (**config)

Displays the name of each window in the current group. Contrary to TaskList this is not an interactive widget. The window that currently has focus is highlighted.

Supported bar orientations: horizontal only

key	default	description
separator	' '	Task separator text.
selected	(' < ', ' > ')	Selected task indicator

class `libqtile.widget.YahooWeather` (***config*)
 A weather widget, data provided by the Yahoo! Weather API.

Format options:

- astronomy_sunrise
- astronomy_sunset
- atmosphere_humidity
- atmosphere_visibility
- atmosphere_pressure
- atmosphere_rising
- condition_text
- condition_code
- condition_temp
- condition_date
- location_city
- location_region
- location_country
- units_temperature
- units_distance
- units_pressure
- units_speed
- wind_chill

Supported bar orientations: horizontal only

key	default	description
location	None	Location to fetch weather for. Ignored if woeid is set.
woeid	None	Where On Earth ID. Auto-calculated if location is set.
format	'{location_city}: {condition_temp} °{units_temperature}'	Display format
metric	True	True to use metric/C, False to use imperial/F
up	'^'	symbol for rising atmospheric pressure
down	'v'	symbol for falling atmospheric pressure
steady	's'	symbol for steady atmospheric pressure

4.2 Frequently Asked Questions

4.2.1 When I first start xterm/urxvt/rxvt containing an instance of Vim, I see text and layout corruption. What gives?

Vim is not handling terminal resizes correctly. You can fix the problem by starting your xterm with the “-wf” option, like so:

```
xterm -wf -e vim
```

Alternatively, you can just cycle through your layouts a few times, which usually seems to fix it.

4.2.2 How do I know which modifier specification maps to which key?

To see a list of modifier names and their matching keys, use the `xmodmap` command. On my system, the output looks like this:

```
$ xmodmap
xmodmap: up to 3 keys per modifier, (keycodes in parentheses):

shift      Shift_L (0x32),  Shift_R (0x3e)
lock       Caps_Lock (0x9)
control    Control_L (0x25), Control_R (0x69)
mod1       Alt_L (0x40),  Alt_R (0x6c),  Meta_L (0xcd)
mod2       Num_Lock (0x4d)
mod3
mod4       Super_L (0xce),  Hyper_L (0xcf)
mod5       ISO_Level3_Shift (0x5c),  Mode_switch (0xcb)
```

4.2.3 My “pointer mouse cursor” isn’t the one I expect it to be!

Qtile should set the default cursor to `left_ptr`, you must install `xcb-util-cursor` if you want support for themed cursors.

4.3 License

This project is distributed under the MIT license.

Copyright (c) 2008, Aldo Cortesi All rights reserved.

Permission is hereby granted, free of charge, to any person obtaining a copy of this software and associated documentation files (the “Software”), to deal in the Software without restriction, including without limitation the rights to use, copy, modify, merge, publish, distribute, sublicense, and/or sell copies of the Software, and to permit persons to whom the Software is furnished to do so, subject to the following conditions:

The above copyright notice and this permission notice shall be included in all copies or substantial portions of the Software.

THE SOFTWARE IS PROVIDED “AS IS”, WITHOUT WARRANTY OF ANY KIND, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY, FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE AND NONINFRINGEMENT. IN NO EVENT SHALL THE AUTHORS OR COPYRIGHT HOLDERS BE LIABLE FOR ANY CLAIM, DAMAGES OR OTHER LIABILITY, WHETHER IN AN ACTION OF CONTRACT, TORT OR OTHERWISE, ARISING FROM, OUT OF OR IN CONNECTION WITH THE SOFTWARE OR THE USE OR OTHER DEALINGS IN THE SOFTWARE.

- `genindex`

Symbols

`__init__()` (libqtile.config.Group method), 6
`__init__()` (libqtile.config.Match method), 6
`__init__()` (libqtile.layout.floating.Floating method), 29
`__init__()` (libqtile.widget.Spacer method), 42

A

`addgroup()` (libqtile.hook.subscribe method), 27
`AGroupBox` (class in libqtile.widget), 34

B

`Backlight` (class in libqtile.widget), 34
`Battery` (class in libqtile.widget), 35
`BatteryIcon` (class in libqtile.widget), 35
`BitcoinTicker` (class in libqtile.widget), 35

C

`Canto` (class in libqtile.widget), 36
`changegroup()` (libqtile.hook.subscribe method), 28
`CheckUpdates` (class in libqtile.widget), 36
`client_focus()` (libqtile.hook.subscribe method), 28
`client_killed()` (libqtile.hook.subscribe method), 27
`client_managed()` (libqtile.hook.subscribe method), 27
`client_mouse_enter()` (libqtile.hook.subscribe method), 28
`client_name_updated()` (libqtile.hook.subscribe method), 27
`client_new()` (libqtile.hook.subscribe method), 27
`client_state_changed()` (libqtile.hook.subscribe method), 28
`client_type_changed()` (libqtile.hook.subscribe method), 27
`client_urgent_hint_changed()` (libqtile.hook.subscribe method), 27
`Clipboard` (class in libqtile.widget), 36
`Clock` (class in libqtile.widget), 36
`Cmus` (class in libqtile.widget), 37
`Countdown` (class in libqtile.widget), 37
`CPUGraph` (class in libqtile.widget), 36

`current_screen_change()` (libqtile.hook.subscribe method), 28

`CurrentLayout` (class in libqtile.widget), 37
`CurrentScreen` (class in libqtile.widget), 37

D

`DebugInfo` (class in libqtile.widget), 38
`delgroup()` (libqtile.hook.subscribe method), 28
`DF` (class in libqtile.widget), 38

F

`float_change()` (libqtile.hook.subscribe method), 27
`Floating` (class in libqtile.layout.floating), 29
`focus_change()` (libqtile.hook.subscribe method), 28

G

`GenPollText` (class in libqtile.widget), 38
`GenPollUrl` (class in libqtile.widget), 38
`GmailChecker` (class in libqtile.widget), 38
`Group` (class in libqtile.config), 6
`group_window_add()` (libqtile.hook.subscribe method), 28
`GroupBox` (class in libqtile.widget), 39

H

`HDDBusyGraph` (class in libqtile.widget), 39
`HDDGraph` (class in libqtile.widget), 39

I

`Image` (class in libqtile.widget), 39

K

`KeyboardLayout` (class in libqtile.widget), 40

L

`layout_change()` (libqtile.hook.subscribe method), 28

M

`Maildir` (class in libqtile.widget), 40

Match (class in libqtile.config), 6
Matrix (class in libqtile.layout.matrix), 29
Max (class in libqtile.layout.max), 29
Memory (class in libqtile.widget), 40
MemoryGraph (class in libqtile.widget), 40
Moc (class in libqtile.widget), 40
MonadTall (class in libqtile.layout.xmonad), 29

N

Net (class in libqtile.widget), 41
net_wm_icon_change() (libqtile.hook.subscribe method),
27
NetGraph (class in libqtile.widget), 41
Notify (class in libqtile.widget), 41

P

Pacman (class in libqtile.widget), 41
Prompt (class in libqtile.widget), 41

R

RatioTile (class in libqtile.layout.ratiotile), 31

S

screen_change() (libqtile.hook.subscribe method), 28
selection_change() (libqtile.hook.subscribe method), 28
selection_notify() (libqtile.hook.subscribe method), 28
Sep (class in libqtile.widget), 42
setgroup() (libqtile.hook.subscribe method), 28
She (class in libqtile.widget), 42
simple_key_binder() (in module libqtile.dgroups), 6
Slice (class in libqtile.layout.slice), 31
Spacer (class in libqtile.widget), 42
Stack (class in libqtile.layout.stack), 31
startup() (libqtile.hook.subscribe method), 28
startup_once() (libqtile.hook.subscribe method), 27
SwapGraph (class in libqtile.widget), 42
Systray (class in libqtile.widget), 43

T

TaskList (class in libqtile.widget), 43
TextBox (class in libqtile.widget), 43
ThermalSensor (class in libqtile.widget), 43
Tile (class in libqtile.layout.tile), 32
TreeTab (class in libqtile.layout.tree), 32

V

VerticalTile (class in libqtile.layout.verticaltile), 33
Volume (class in libqtile.widget), 44

W

Wallpaper (class in libqtile.widget), 44
window_name_change() (libqtile.hook.subscribe
method), 28

WindowName (class in libqtile.widget), 44
WindowTabs (class in libqtile.widget), 44

Y

YahooWeather (class in libqtile.widget), 44

Z

Zoomy (class in libqtile.layout.zoomy), 34