

# XDOTOOL


*a very useful utility!*



XDOTOOL allows you to simulate keyboard input [and mouse activity, to move and resize windows, etc].

So far, I have only used XDOTOOL for typing shortcuts

# Ask yourself.....

- How often do you type your email address, mobile number, street, suburb, post code? Or unique id's such as account number, medicare number, tax-file number, etc?
  - I begrudge wasting time performing such mundane, repetitive, mindblowingly boring tasks
  - I begrudge it even more when a simple typo means I have to do it all over again!
- 

Have you thought... *‘well that’s several minutes of my life WASTED that I will never see again!’*

XDOTOOL can help you work faster  
AND to minimise typos and the time  
wasted as a consequence!




XDOTOOL is available for major Linux distros.

(It is available for other inferior operating systems too!)

For Ubuntu, Debian or Linux Mint, you can just do:

```
1 | $ sudo apt-get install xdotool
```




# What software is loaded?

- libxdo3 and/or xautomation
- exdotool
  
- XDOTOOL software uses less than 400kB of disk space.

# How to program shortcuts

- Click on System Settings
- Select Hardware - keyboard – shortcuts
- Click Add a custom shortcut
- – give the shortcut a name (eg mobile number)
- – enter a bash command to run when this shortcut is invoked

eg: `bash -c "sleep 0.6 ; xdotool type '0400XXXXXX'"`

- Then, using the actual key-combination you have decided upon to invoke that bash command, specify the keyboard mapping / keyboard binding that will invoke this command.  
( for example `ctrl +alt + num/ltr` )
- 




# Adding a custom shortcut

Add custom shortcut

Name: Mobile phone lan

Command: `bash -c "sleep 0.6 ; xdotool type '04 [REDACTED]' "`

(None) 

Update Cancel

# Specify the keyboard bindings

The screenshot shows the 'System Settings' application window with the 'Shortcuts' tab selected. The left sidebar lists categories, with 'Custom Shortcuts' highlighted. The main area is divided into two sections: 'Keyboard shortcuts' and 'Keyboard bindings'. In the 'Keyboard shortcuts' section, the 'Mobile phone lan' entry is selected, and a blue arrow points from the 'Custom Shortcuts' category to it. A text box labeled 'Email address' is overlaid on the selected entry. In the 'Keyboard bindings' section, a blue arrow points from the 'Custom Shortcuts' category to the first entry, 'Ctrl+Alt+M'. At the bottom, there are two buttons: 'Add custom shortcut' and 'Remove custom shortcut'. A footer note reads: 'To edit a keyboard binding, click it and press the new keys, or press backspace to clear it.'

System Settings

← Typing Shortcuts Layouts

Categories

- ▶ General
- ▶ Windows
- ▶ Workspaces
- ▶ System
- ▶ Launchers
- ▶ Sound and Media
- ▶ Universal Access
- ▶ Custom Shortcuts**

**Keyboard shortcuts**

- address suburb
- Comsec client
- SuperTFN
- LinTFN
- IanTFN
- Std pw
- Mobile phone lan**
- Email address address
- address line 1
- address State and PostCode


**Keyboard bindings**

- Ctrl+Alt+M
- unassigned
- unassigned

Add custom shortcut Remove custom shortcut

To edit a keyboard binding, click it and press the new keys, or press backspace to clear it.

# Things I learned .....

- Xdotool has many commands and options - see internet documentation for details.
  - Xdotool commands can be concatenated into a string using a semicolon ( ; ) to separate each command
  - Faster PC's (eg solid state devices) definitely require a 'sleep' component ( eg 0.6 miliseconds) at the start of the bash command
- 

# Avoid conflict with system shortcuts

Have a 'cheat sheet' near your PC

Develop a consistent use of keys. ( Follow the KISS principle... Keep It Simple Stupid)

for example...

ctrl + alt + e = email address

ctrl + alt + m = mobile number

ctrl + alt + 1 = Address line 1

ctrl + alt + 2 = Suburb

ctrl + alt + 3 = State PostCode

Thank you.

Give it a 'try'