

Debian 11 XFCE

- [XFCE keyboard shortcuts](#)
 - [Lock xfce with Windows + L](#)
 - [Disable emoji annotation \(IBus Preferences\)](#)
 - [Show desktop with Windows + D](#)
 - [Snap Windows to sides](#)
 - [Open Whisker menu with Windows key](#)
- [System](#)
 - [Add user to sudo](#)
 - [Disable root account](#)
- [Install Slack](#)

XFCE keyboard shortcuts

Change default keyboard bindings in XFCE

Lock xfce with Windows + L

Default settings

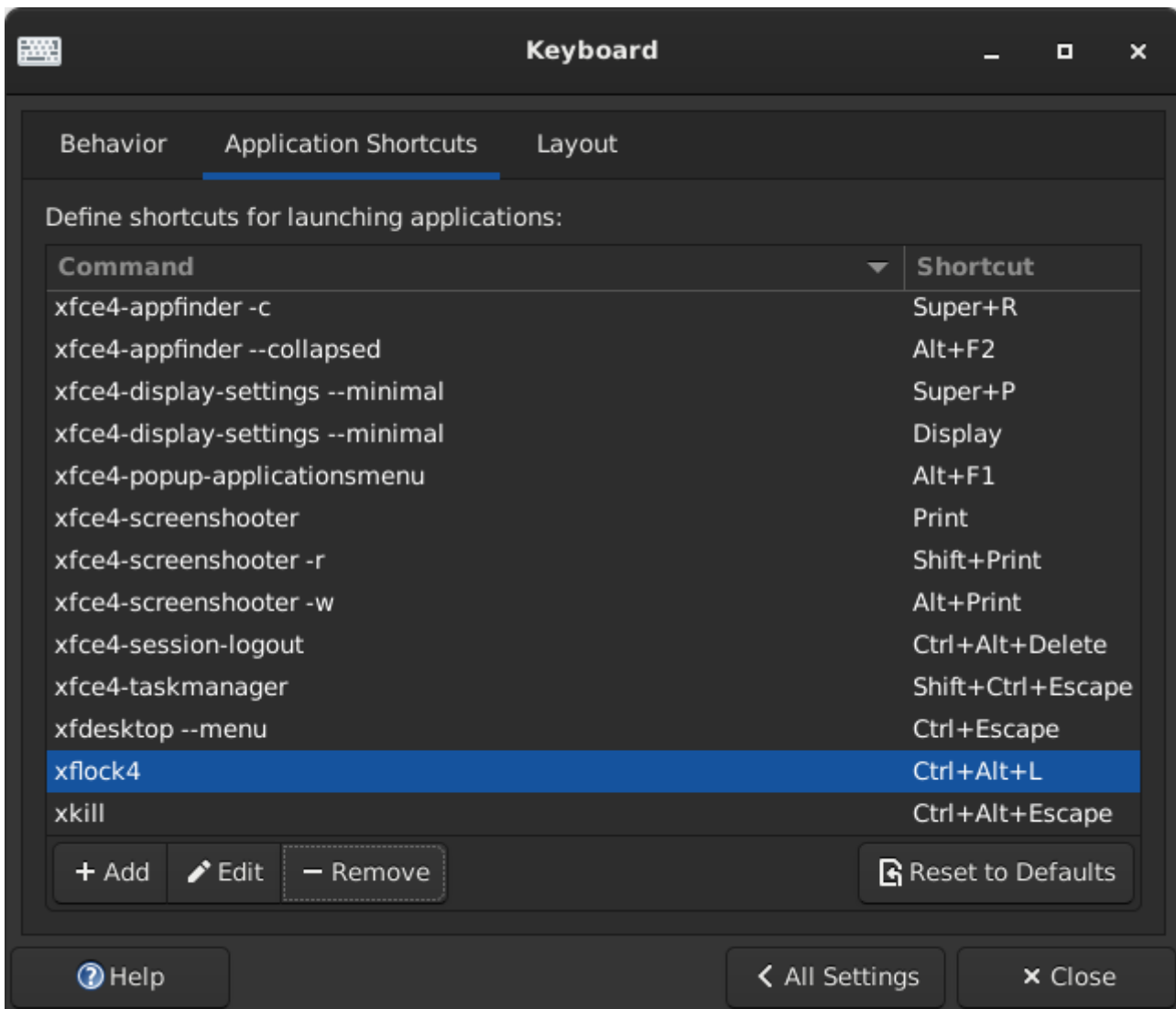
To lock a screen in Xfce by default either:

- Type `xflock4` in the terminal
- Press `Ctrl + Alt + L`

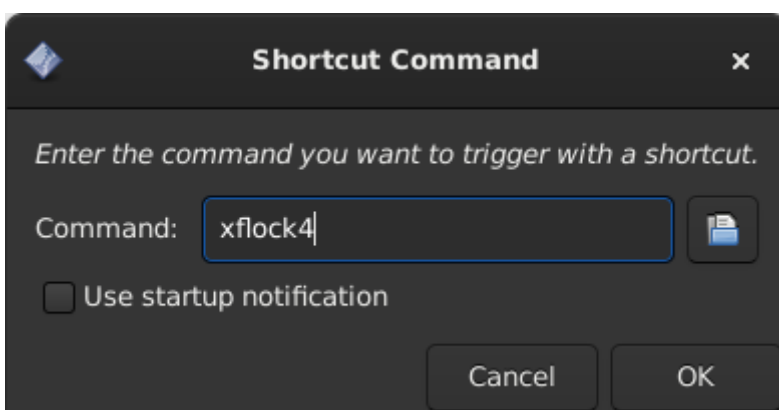
Because the Windows key is basically useless on Linux, I want to bind some shortcuts to it.

Change keyboard shortcut

1. To change Keyboard shortcuts, open `Settings Manager` --> `Keyboard` --> `Application Shortcuts`. There you will be able to see all current shortcuts.




2. To add a new one, press the **Add** button at the bottom, type the name of the command you would like to launch with that shortcut and press **OK**. You will then be prompted to press the desired key combination. I am used to **Windows + L**, so I set it that way.




3. Delete the previous shortcut **Ctrl + Alt + L** or keep it.

xrdesktop --m...	Ctrl+Escape
xlock4	Ctrl+Alt+L
xlock4	Super+L

+ Add

 Edit

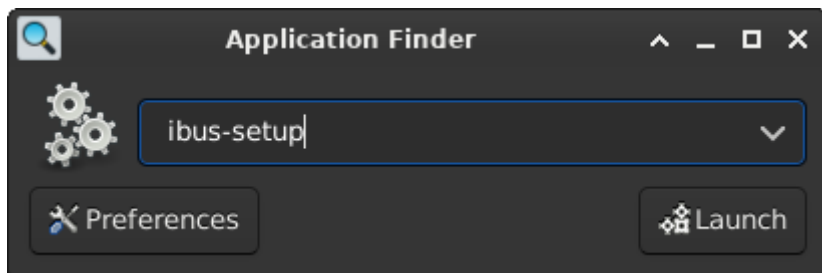
- Remove

 Reset to Defaults

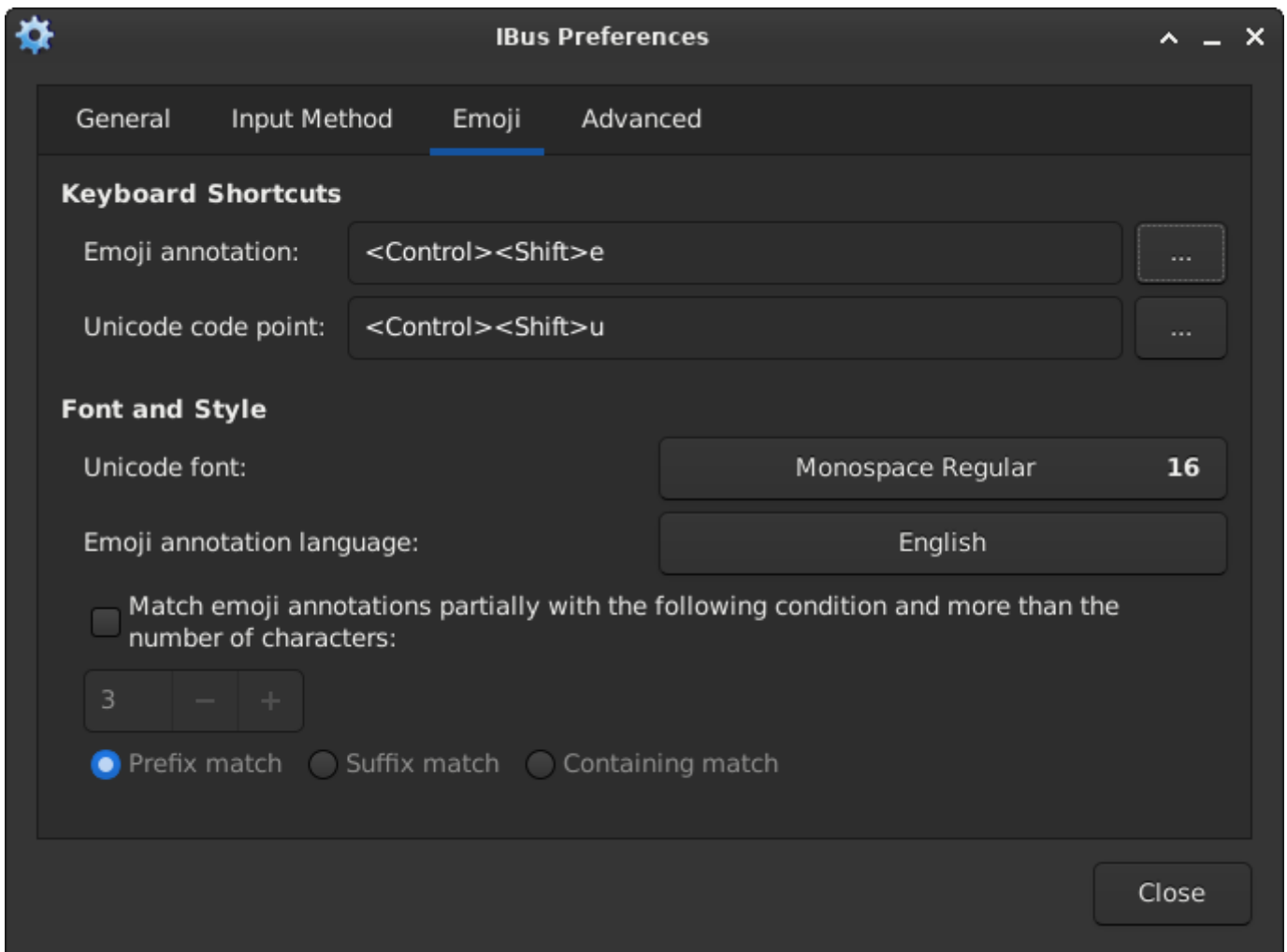
Disable emoji annotation (IBus Preferences)

I have recently found out that the key combination `Ctrl + Shift + E` in my Xfce Debian 11 does something else than I expected. I use it in Bookstack to change a selected part of text to inline code style like `this`. Instead of this however, it calls an Emoji annotation (which, frankly, I will never use).

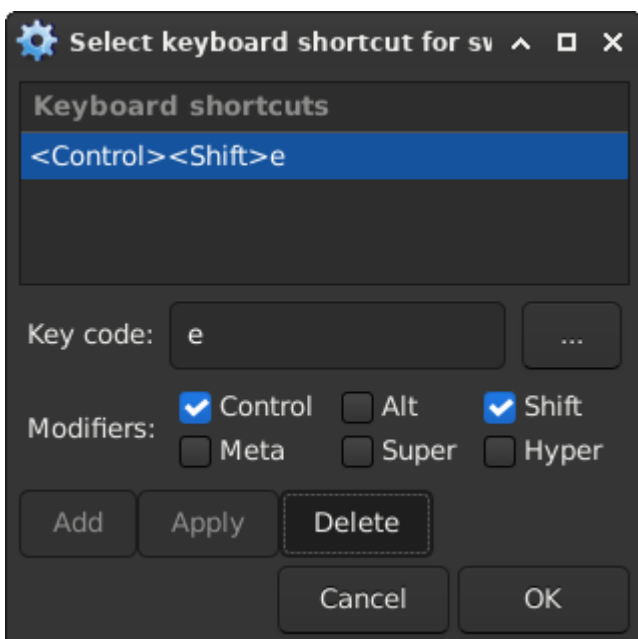
1. To disable this shortcut, open `ibus-setup` (`Applications` --> `Run program` or type `ibus-setup` in `Terminal`).



2. This will open `IBus Preferences`, go to the `Emoji` tab



3. There, click on the three dots button next to `Emoji annotation`, select the shortcut and press `Delete` .



4. The `Emoji annotation` should now be empty and shouldn't interfere with other application shortcuts.



General Input Method **Emoji** Advanced

Keyboard Shortcuts

Emoji annotation: ...

Unicode code point: ...

Font and Style

Unicode font: **16**

Emoji annotation language:

☐ Match emoji annotations partially with the following condition and more than the number of characters:

- +

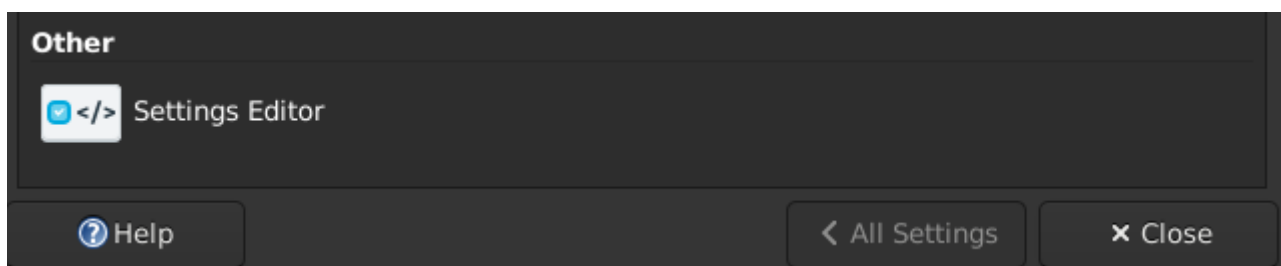
☒ Prefix match ☐ Suffix match ☐ Containing match

Close

Show desktop with Windows + D

Again, `Ctrl + Alt + D` is set as a default shortcut to show desktop. Unfortunately I haven't found it in the Keyboard shortcut settings, so I will have to use the more advanced `Settings Editor`.

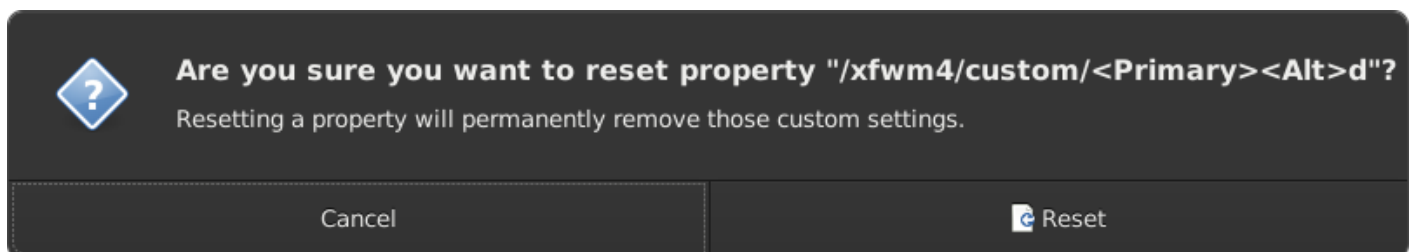
1. `Settings Manager` --> `Settings Editor`



2. Find **Channel** `xfce4-keyboard-shortcuts` and locate a **Property** with `show_desktop_key` value.

xfce4-desktop	<Alt>Tab	String	<input type="checkbox"/>	cycle_windows_key
xfce4-keyboard-shortcuts	Down	String	<input type="checkbox"/>	down_key
xfce4-notifyd	Escape	String	<input type="checkbox"/>	cancel_key
xfce4-panel	Left	String	<input type="checkbox"/>	left_key
xfce4-power-manager	override	Boolean	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
xfce4-session	<Primary><Alt>d	String	<input type="checkbox"/>	show_desktop_key
xfce4-settings-manager	<Primary><Alt>Down	String	<input type="checkbox"/>	down_workspace_key
xfce4-terminal	<Primary><Alt>End	String	<input type="checkbox"/>	move_window_next_workspace_key

3. Click on this **Property** and press the **Reset** button. This will basically delete the **Property** and `Ctrl + Alt + D` won't work for showing the desktop anymore.



4. Now add a new **Property** `/xfwm4/custom/<Super>d` with the same **Value** `(show_desktop_key)` and **Type** `String`

Property: /xfwm4/custom/<Super>d

Type: String ▼

Value: show_desktop_key|

Cancel Save

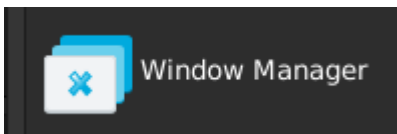
5. Click **Save** and that's it. `Windows + d` will now

work.

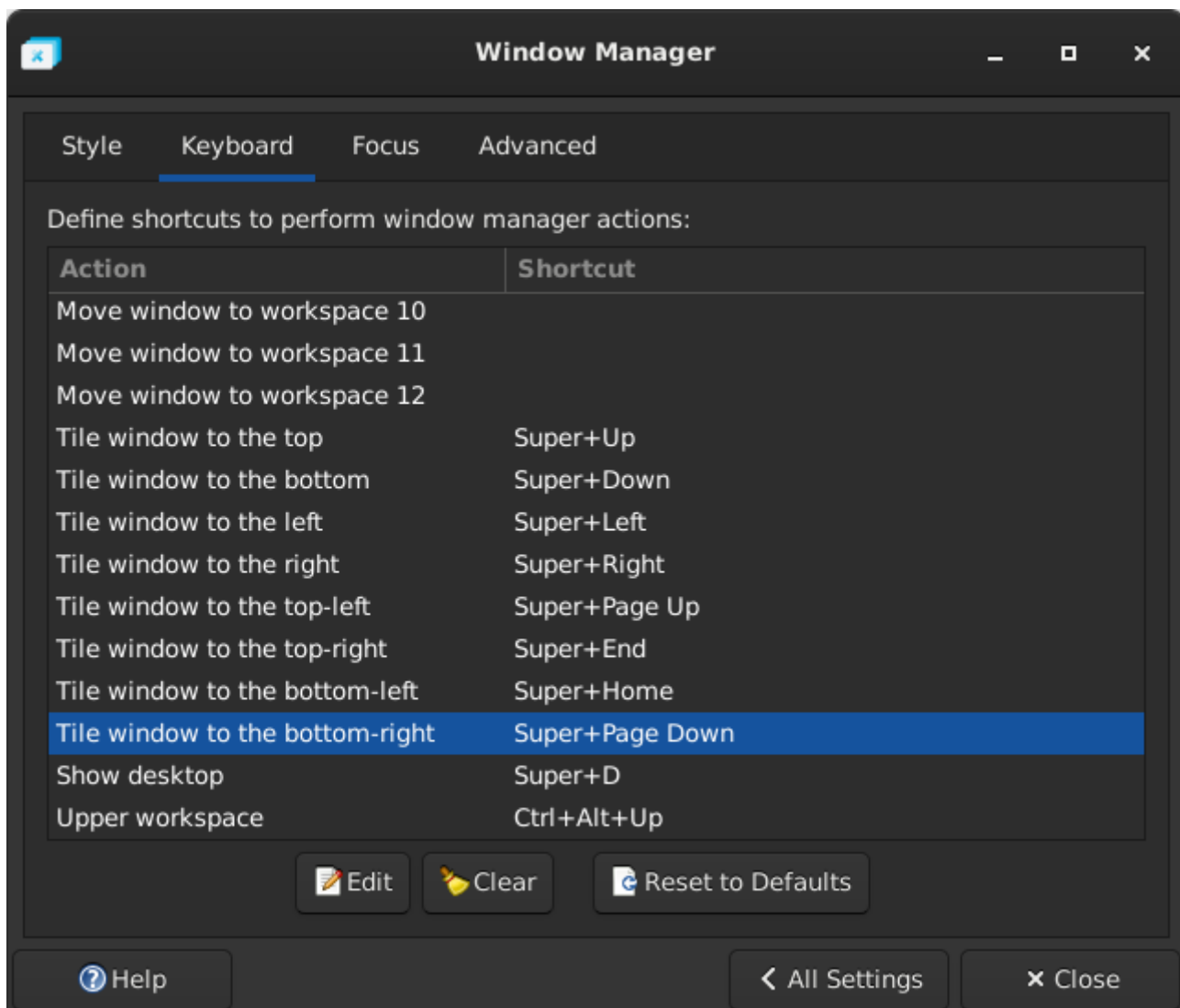
Snap Windows to sides

If you are coming from Windows, you might be familiar with the concept of snapping windows to the left/right side of the screen or to the corners. This is possible within Xfce as well, albeit not as smooth. Without shortcuts, this works by dragging windows to the part of the screen you want it to snap to.

1. Go to -->



2. Open it and go to the **Keyboard** tab. "Tile window to the Edit and change it to what suits you.

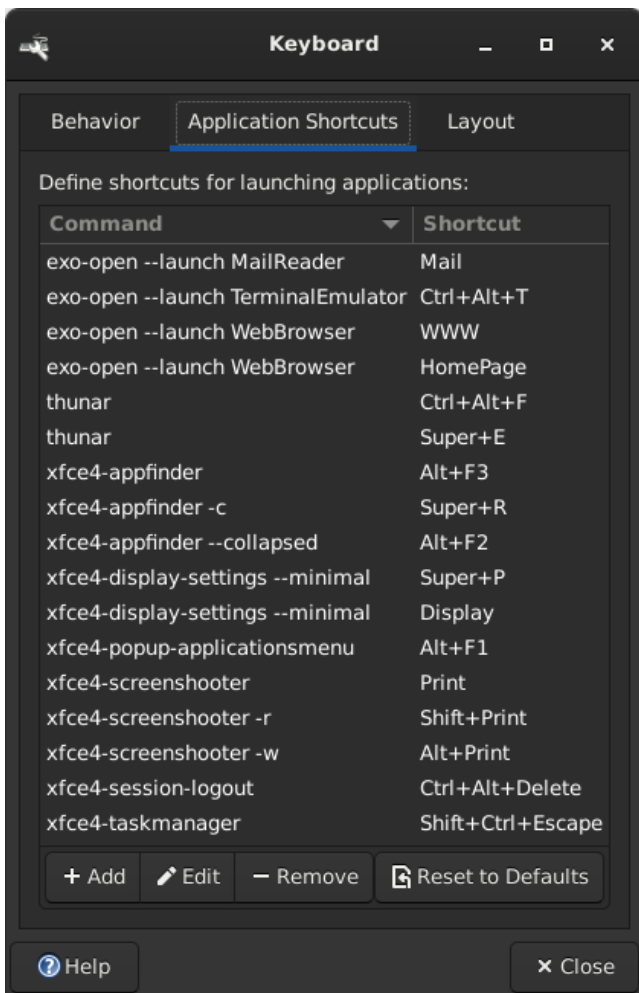


Open Whisker menu with Windows key

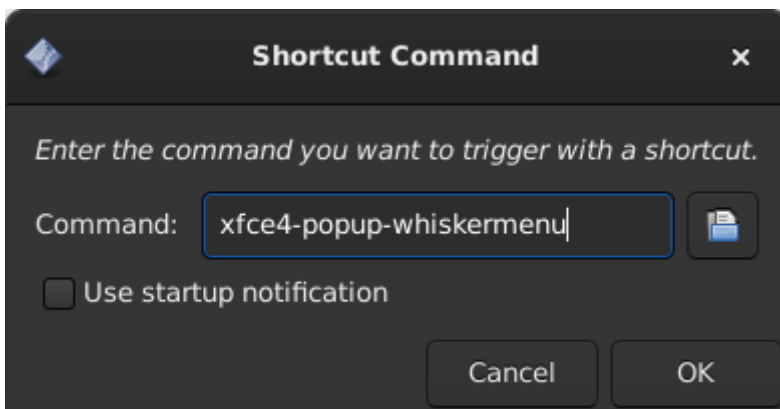
EDIT: There's bug in Xfce (or maybe a feature) that makes it impossible to use shortcuts with only one modifier key, in this case the Windows key. Basically, if you have a keyboard shortcut that uses the Windows/Super key, e.g `Super + Up` and then you make `Super` alone open the Whisker menu (or something else), `Super + Up` shortcut **stops working! To fix this, check the bottom of the article.**

If you come from Windows, you are very likely used to pressing the Windows button and typing a name of an application to launch it. You can achieve the same with Xfce's Whisker menu. Unfortunately it isn't called with the `Windows` (`Super` on non-Windows OSs) key by default. You can change it of course, it's Linux!

1. Go to `Settings Manager` --> `Keyboard` --> `Application Shortcuts`



2. Click the **Add** button and point it to `xfce4-popup-whiskermenu`



3. Click **OK** and press your desired key combination (only the `Super` key in my case).

Done! Pressing the Super/Windows key will now bring up Whisker menu and you can start typing immediately to launch an app you want.

As mentioned at the beginning of this article, there's a problem with using only one modifier key alone as a shortcut, which makes (most) other shortcuts using this modifier key stop working. You will have to download this utility to fix it: <https://github.com/hanschen/ksuperkey>

Unfortunately I haven't made this working yet and decided dropping this shortcut for now.

System

Add user to sudo

You most likely already have `sudo` installed (should be installed by default in Debian 11). Because of that, the `sudo` group already exists and is in `/etc/sudoers` file. The only thing we have to do is add our user to the `sudo` group.

Add user to sudo group

1. Login as `root`
2. Add user `username` to `sudo group`

```
(root)$ usermod -aG sudo username
```

- `-a` adds user to a new supplementary group
- `-G` specifies the name of the group to append to the user

3. Check whether your user is in the `sudo` group

```
(root)$ groups username  
username : username cdrom floppy sudo audio dip video plugdev netdev bluetooth lpadmin scanner
```

As you can see from the output, `sudo` is on of the groups `username` is in.

4. Log out of `root`, login as your user and try to use `sudo` to execute a privileged command like `apt upgrade`. You will be prompted for a password (your user password, not `root` password). If you type it in correctly, and the command works, you have appropriate privileges, if not, you will be warned that the user isn't in the `sudoers` file.

Don't forget to actually log off `root` before logging back as your user. Your mileage may vary, but when I didn't do that, `sudo` didn't reload config and thought I wasn't in the `sudoers` file.

Disable password for sudo

If you have a really long password like me, you probably don't want to type it in every time you use `sudo`. By default, there's a timeout in `sudo` that allows you to execute multiple elevated commands before asking you for a password again. However, if you never want to be asked for a password when running `sudo`, you need to edit a configuration file.

1. Backup the current `sudoers` file in case something goes wrong.

```
$ sudo cp /etc/sudoers ~/
```

2. Edit the `sudoers` file with `visudo` to avoid making syntax mistakes (`visudo` does basic checks).

```
$ sudo visudo
```

This will happen if you make a syntax mistake:

```
/etc/sudoers:23:21: syntax error
%sudo  ALL=NOPASSWD: ALLfdsaf
                        ^~~~~~
What now? n
Options are:
  (e)dit sudoers file again
  e(x)it without saving changes to sudoers file
  (Q)uit and save changes to sudoers file (DANGER!)
```

3. Edit the line with `%sudo` and make it look like this. `sudo` has very powerful configuration, `man sudoers` for more.

```
# Allow members of group sudo to execute any command
%sudo  ALL=NOPASSWD: ALL
```

4. Log out or reboot and test if it works.

Disable root account

You might want to disable your `root` account from logging in.

1. Disable the account (remove password)

```
$ sudo passwd -d root
```

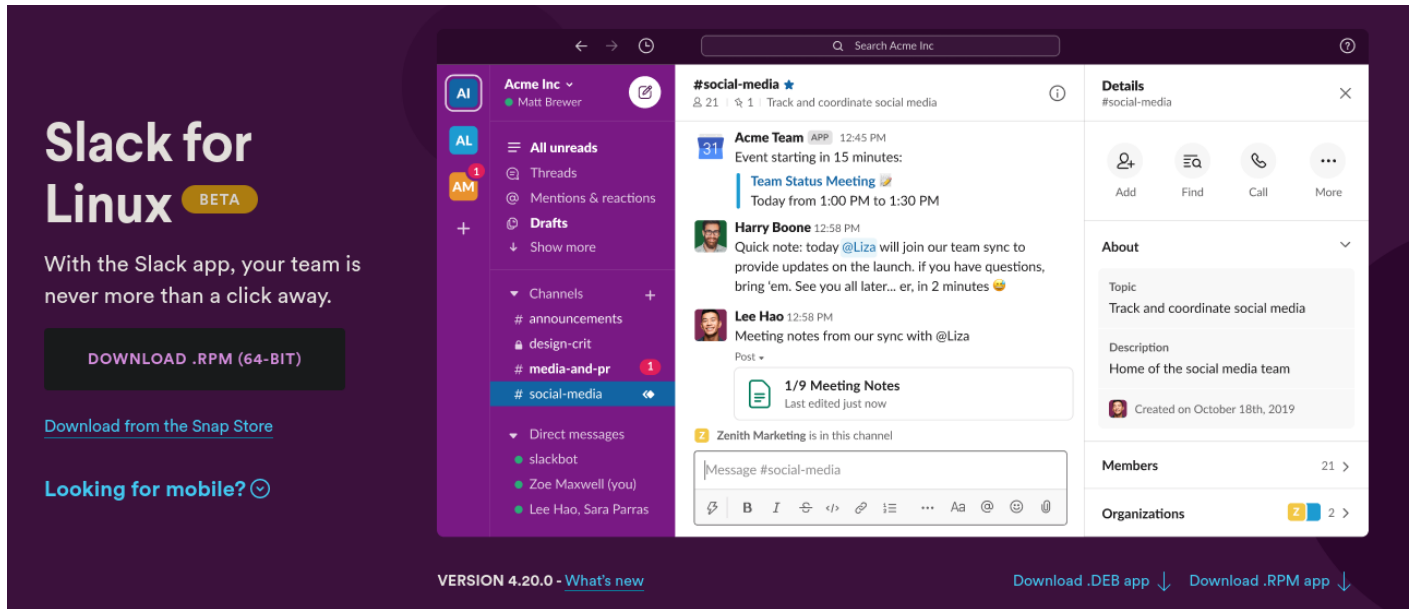
2. Lock the account (adds `!` to `/etc/shadow`)

```
$ sudo passwd -l root
```

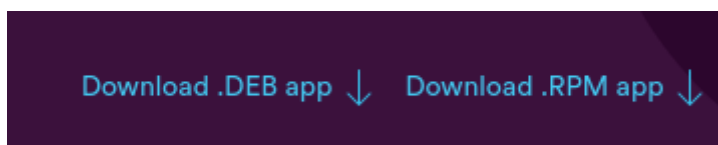
Now logging in as `root` shouldn't be possible, but you can still elevate to it with `sudo su`.

Install Slack

Slack isn't FLOOS, therefore it isn't included in the Debian repository (there might be other reasons to it). In order to install Slack, you will need to download .DEB file manually.



1. Go to <https://slack.com/intl/en-cz/downloads/linux> and download the .DEB file



2. Unfortunately, if you had tried installing it right away, you would get dependency error.

```
$ sudo apt install ./slack-desktop-4.20.0-amd64.deb
```

```
Reading package lists... Done
```

```
Building dependency tree... Done
```

```
Reading state information... Done
```

```
Note, selecting 'slack-desktop' instead of './slack-desktop-4.20.0-amd64.deb'
```

```
Some packages could not be installed. This may mean that you have  
requested an impossible situation or if you are using the unstable  
distribution that some required packages have not yet been created  
or been moved out of Incoming.
```

```
The following information may help to resolve the situation:
```

The following packages have unmet dependencies:

slack-desktop : Depends: libappindicator3-1 but it is not installable

E: Unable to correct problems, you have held broken packages.

3. To fix this, run the following command to unpack and edit the .DEB file (in the folder where you have downloaded it)

```
$ dpkg-deb -x slack-desktop-4.20.0-amd64.deb unpack
```

```
$ dpkg-deb --control slack-desktop-4.20.0-amd64.deb
```

This will leave you with two new folders, `unpack` and `DEBIAN`.

DEBIAN slack-desktop-4.20.0-amd64.deb unpack

4. Move the `DEBIAN` folder to the `unpack` folder.

```
$ mv DEBIAN/ unpack/
```

5. Open the file and replace `libappindicator3-1` with `libayatana-appindicator3-1`

```
$ nvim unpack/DEBIAN/control
```

```
...
Depends: libgtk-3-0, libappindicator3-1, libnotify4, libnss3, libxss1, libxtst6, xdg-utils, libatspi2.0-0, libuuid1, kde-
cli-tools | kde-runtime | trash-cli | libglib2.0-bin | gvfs-bin, apt-transport-https
...
```

to

```
...
Depends: libgtk-3-0, libayatana-appindicator3-1, libnotify4, libnss3, libxss1, libxtst6, xdg-utils, libatspi2.0-0,
libuuid1, kde-cli-tools | kde-runtime | trash-cli | libglib2.0-bin | gvfs-bin, apt-transport-https
...
```

6. Go back to the directory where you have the folder `unpack` and build the .DEB package again with:

```
$ dpkg -b unpack slack.deb
```

This will build the package and save it as `slack.deb`

7. Install the newly build `slack.deb` with `apt`.

```
$ sudo apt install ./slack.deb
```

```
Reading package lists... Done
Building dependency tree... Done
Reading state information... Done
Note, selecting 'slack-desktop' instead of './slack.deb'
Suggested packages:
  gir1.2-gnomekeyring-1.0 libgnome-keyring0
The following NEW packages will be installed:
  slack-desktop
0 upgraded, 1 newly installed, 0 to remove and 0 not upgraded.
Need to get 0 B/63.1 MB of archives.
After this operation, 148 MB of additional disk space will be used.
Get:1 /home/marek/Downloads/slack.deb slack-desktop amd64 4.20.0 [63.1 MB]
Selecting previously unselected package slack-desktop.
(Reading database ... 247528 files and directories currently installed.)
Preparing to unpack .../home/marek/Downloads/slack.deb ...
Unpacking slack-desktop (4.20.0) ...
Setting up slack-desktop (4.20.0) ...
Processing triggers for desktop-file-utils (0.26-1) ...
```

Slack should be now installed and called through Terminal or application launcher.