bspwm Tiling window manager

sxhkd hotkey daemon → runs → **bspc** client → socket → **bspwm** window tree

How a keypress becomes a layout change

CONCEPTS

bspwm only manages windows. Keys come from sxhkd, which runs bspc commands; bspc talks to bspwm over a socket.

Monitor physical screen
Desktop workspace
Node window or split

Hierarchy

Each desktop holds a binary tree: leaves are windows, inner nodes are splits. Most commands rotate, flip or resize subtrees.

FOCUS AND MOVE

bspc node -f *<dir>*
Focus window by direction (north/south/east/west)

bspc node -f next.local.!hidden.window
Cycle windows on this desktop

bspc node -f last
Focus the previously focused window

bspc node -s *<dir>*
Swap with the window in a direction

FOCUS AND MOVE (cont.)

bspc node -s biggest.local
Swap with the biggest window

bspc node -n *<dir>*
Move window onto the neighbour's position

bspc node -d *<desktop>*
Send window to a desktop

bspc node -d *<desktop>* **--follow**
Send window and follow it

bspc node -c
Close window politely

bspc node -k
Kill window

STATE AND FLAGS

bspc node -t tiled
Make the window tiled

bspc node -t floating
Make the window floating

bspc node -t ~fullscreen
Toggle fullscreen

bspc node -g sticky
Toggle sticky (follows desktop changes)

bspc node -v *<dx>* *<dy>*
Move a floating window by pixels

STATE AND FLAGS (cont.)

bspc node -z *<side>* *<dx>* *<dy>*
Resize by dragging a side or corner

SPLITS AND LAYOUT

bspc node -p *<dir>*
Preselect where the next window opens

bspc node @/ -R 90
Rotate the whole desktop tree

bspc desktop -l next
Toggle tiled/monocle layout

DESKTOPS

bspc desktop -f *<desktop>*
Focus a desktop by name

bspc desktop -f ^*<n>*
Focus the nth desktop

bspc desktop -f next.local
Next desktop on this monitor

bspc desktop -f last
Back to the previous desktop

MONITORS

bspc monitor -d I II III IV V
Name this monitor's desktops

bspc monitor *<name>* **-d** *<names>*...
Set desktops for a given monitor

QUERY

bspc query -N
List node IDs

bspc query -D --names
List desktop names

RULES

bspc rule -a *<Class>* **state=floating**
Float windows of a class

bspc rule -a *<Class>* **desktop=^2 follow=on**
Open on a desktop and follow

CONFIG

bspc config window_gap *<px>*
Gap between windows

bspc config border_width *<px>*
Window border width

CONFIG (cont.)

bspc config focus_follows_pointer true
Focus under the mouse

bspc config top_padding *<px>*
Reserve space for a bar

SXHKD BINDINGS

super + Return
Launch a terminal

super + {h,j,k,l}
Focus west/south/north/east

super + shift + {h,j,k,l}
Swap in a direction

super + {_,shift + }{1-9,0}
Go to / send to desktop

super + alt + {h,j,k,l}
Preselect a direction

super + Escape
Reload sxhkd

EVENTS

bspc subscribe report
Stream a status line on every change