Qtile Python tiling WM

START HERE

Super + Enter
Open a terminal

Super + R
Run a command prompt

Super + H / J / K / L
Focus left / down / up / right

Super + Shift + H / J / K / L
Move the window

Super + 1-9
Switch group

Super + Tab
Next layout

Super + W
Close the window

Super + Ctrl + R
Reload the config

Screen one per monitor, holds the bar
Group workspace, shown on one screen
Layout tiling rule of the group
Window one client

CONCEPTS

Super is mod4 in the default config.py (~/.config/qtile/config.py). Every binding on this sheet is a default you can change.

Config is plain Python. Keys call lazy objects (lazy.window.kill()): they are queued and only run on the key press.

Groups are not tied to a screen: a group is pulled to the focused screen when you switch to it.

FOCUS AND MOVE

Super + H / Super + L
Focus left / right

Super + J / Super + K
Focus down / up

Super + Space
Focus the other pane

Super + Shift + H / Super + Shift + L
Move window left / right

Super + Shift + J / Super + Shift + K
Move window down / up

Super + Ctrl + H / Super + Ctrl + L
Grow window left / right

Super + Ctrl + J / Super + Ctrl + K
Grow window down / up

Super + N
Reset all window sizes

Moving past the edge in the Columns layout creates a new column; growing at a screen edge shrinks instead.

WINDOWS

Super + Enter
Launch a terminal

WINDOWS (cont.)

Super + W
Kill the focused window

Super + F Toggle fullscreen

Super + T Toggle floating

Super + R
Open the prompt widget

Super + Button1 › drag
Move a floating window

Super + Button3 › drag
Resize a floating window

GROUPS AND LAYOUTS

Super + 1-9 Switch to group

Super + Shift + 1-9
Send window to group and follow

Super + Tab Next layout

Layouts (names for config)

Layout	Idea
`Columns`	Default: columns of stacked windows
`Max`	One window fills the screen
`MonadTall`	Main pane left, rest stacked right
`MonadWide`	Main pane top, rest below
`Bsp`	Binary tree splits
`TreeTab`	Tabs listed in a side tree

Columns and Max are active by default; the others are commented out in the default layouts list.

SESSION

Super + Ctrl + R
Reload the config

Super + Ctrl + Q
Shut down Qtile

LAZY COMMANDS

lazy.spawn("*<app>*")
Run an application

lazy.spawncmd()
Open the prompt on the bar

LAZY COMMANDS (cont.)

lazy.reload_config()
Reload the config

lazy.restart()
Restart (X11 keeps windows)

lazy.next_layout() / lazy.prev_layout()
Cycle layouts of the group

lazy.screen.next_group() / prev_group()
Move to adjacent group

lazy.screen.toggle_group()
Back to the last group

lazy.group["*<name>*"].toscreen()
Show a group

lazy.window.kill()
Close the focused window

lazy.window.togroup("*<name>*")
Move window to a group

lazy.window.toggle_floating()
Float or tile the window

lazy.window.toggle_fullscreen()
Fullscreen or restore

lazy.layout.increase_ratio()
Widen the master area

lazy.group["*<g>*"].dropdown_toggle("*<n>*")
Toggle a scratchpad dropdown

lazy.function(*<func>*, *args)
Call func(qtile, *args)

Lazy calls cannot be used inside your own functions; use @lazy.function to run your own code on a key press.

CLI

qtile start
Start a session (run from .xinitrc)

qtile start -b wayland
Start with the Wayland backend

CLI (cont.)

qtile start -c *<file>*
Use another config file

qtile check
Check the config for errors

qtile shell
Interactive command shell

qtile shell -c *<command>*
Run one qshell command and exit

qtile cmd-obj
List root commands

qtile cmd-obj -o *<obj>* [*<id>*]
List commands of an object

qtile cmd-obj -o *<obj>* -f *<fn>* -i
Show docs of a function

qtile cmd-obj -o *<obj>* -f *<fn>* -a *<arg>*
Call a function with args

qtile run-cmd -g *<group>* *<cmd>*
Spawn a command in a group

cmd-obj passes arguments as strings only; objects are layout, window, group, bar, widget, screen and root.

RECIPES

Bind a key to an app

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


keys.append(
    Key([mod], "b",
lazy.spawn("firefox"),
desc="Browser")
)
```

Validate then reload

```
qtile check
# fix reported errors, then
Super+Ctrl+R
qtile cmd-obj -f reload_config
```

Inspect and drive from a script

```
qtile cmd-obj -o group 1 -f info
qtile cmd-obj -o group 3 -f
toscreen
qtile cmd-obj -o group 1 -f
set_label -a A
```

Start from X

```
# ~/.xinitrc
exec qtile start
```