

xdotool & friends

xdotool allows you to automate GUI actions by sending keyboard/mouse commands.

Installing

```
sudo apt install xdotool
```

Use cases

- controlling kodi
- automating a website

Pros

- Create macros for things which don't have a commandline
- Automate tasks
- Easy to use
- Lightweight

Cons

- No feedback, one way
- Have to use sleeps

Basic commands

send key

```
xdotool key "x"
```

Use modifiers

```
xdotool key alt+Tab
```

enter string

```
xdotool type 'hello world'
```

Find window & focus

```
xdotool search --name "Kodi" windowfocus
```

Move mouse

```
xdotool mousemove 100 200 click 1
```

1	left
2	scroll button
3	right

Tricks

- Use long sleeps
- Find shortcut keys to use within the program you want to control
- Try not to use the mouse
- If using the mouse use it relative to the window in a set size.
- Move and click in one command

Friends

wmctrl

Control window sizes and borders

sleep

Sleep for long

Examples

Kodi

```
#!/bin/sh
```

```
kodi &  
sleep 15  
xdotool search --name "Kodi" windowfocus  
sleep 0.5  
xdotool key "h"  
sleep 0.5  
xdotool type "14"  
sleep 0.2  
xdotool key "Return"  
sleep 0.5  
xdotool key "Return"  
sleep 4  
xdotool key "Return"
```

ABCnews

```
#!/usr/bin/env bash

xdotool mousemove 1024 768
google-chrome "http://iview.abc.net.au/channel/news24" &
sleep 1

# Find chrome window and activate
xdotool search "ABC iview" windowactivate

# Get chrome window and store in variable
wid=`xdotool search "ABC iview" |head -1`

# Restore size
wmctrl -ir $wid -b remove,maximized_vert,maximized_horz
sleep 1
xdotool getactivewindow windowsize 1024 768 mousemove --window %1 0 0
sleep 1
xdotool mousemove_relative 100 600 click 1
sleep 0.2
# xdotool mousemove_relative 40 80 click 1
# sleep 0.2
# xdotool click 1
# sleep 0.2

# # Move to lower right and move cursor
# xdotool getactivewindow windowsize 700 400
# xdotool getactivewindow windowmove 4420 680
# xdotool mousemove 0 0
```

Demo

`~/code/xdotool_examples/2.sh`

References

- <https://github.com/jordansissel/xdotool>
- <http://xmodulo.com/simulate-key-press-mouse-movement-linux.html>
- <http://icyrock.com/blog/tag/xdotool/>

Questions

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