Automation and Productivity Tools for X Windows and Shells

STLLUG
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The right tools speed up the work.
About Me

I work as an independent consultant performing system and small network administration, and writing specialized technical documentation.

Recently, I have paid more attention to better tools that let me get work done faster.
About this session

Introduction to the tools is useful

Learning to look for better tools is the biggest win.
Outline

Autokey – X Windows automation

Peco – Interactive searching

Others
Why Autokey?

Autoit is Awesome!

ReactOS

OS that I shall not name
Autokey Capabilities

Define hotkeys
Paste strings
Expand abbreviations
Execute Python 2 scripts
Autokey Shortcomings

Scattered documentation
Weak documentation
Finicky on some platforms
No Wayland support
Autokey Resources

github.com/autokey/

autokey (autokey-py3)

autokey.github.io (autokey documentation)

autokey-python2 (older autokey)
Getting Autokey

A package in your distribution – autokey-gtk or autokey-qt
Debian, Mint, Ubuntu, GalliumOS

Sources at Github
Autokey Documentation

autokey.github.io/index.html
code.google.com/archive/p/autokey/wikis

man page (minimal)
(/usr/share/doc/autokey* not useful)
Autokey Use Case

Repetitive processing of graphic images requiring human input.

Documentation for an electronic test and diagnostic procedure required images to identify connection points.
Autokey Use Case
Autokey API Classes

engine – access to internals
gtk/qt Clipboard – X selection and clipboard
gtk/qt Dialog – info, input, password, lists, file, calendar
Autokey API - More

keyboard – send keys, detect keypress
mouse – click absolute or relative
store – persistent storage between script runs
Autokey API - More

system – shell command, create file

window – activate, resize, set properties, or close windows;
wait for exist or wait for focus;
get window information.
Autokey API - More

Python 2 libraries

Your own modules
Autokey Simple Demo
Autokey Alternatives

Autokey-Py3
xdotool
xautomation
SikuliX
Peco

Poke around text files

regexp testing (fail2ban)
Getting Peco

Your favorite disto may have it

github.com/peco/peco/releases
Peco Demo
Others

Searchable terminal emulators

Desktop switching

Midnight Commander / vishnu
Questions?
The right tools speed up the work.