

Initially I did not remove the 'template' tag on purpose. I thought it'd make more sense for this page to be accessible only from the main keyboard article (Setting a keyboard layout). -sycamorex

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Removed from the TOC. It's part of the generic keyboard layout article — [sycamorex 2012/08/26 15:49](#)

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setxkbmap already has many ways for changing layouts (man xkeyboard-config and look at the change layout section)

```
setxkbmap -layout de,gb
setxkbmap -option 'grp:ctrl_alt_toggle'
```

is particularly useful when you only have two layouts you want to toggle with ctrl-alt

However with this setup setxkbmap will not give the “current” layout. The only way I could find to do that was to use xkblayout-state

The new i3script.sh is: (for i3bar output)

```
#!/bin/bash
i3status --config ~/.i3status.conf | while :
do
    read line
    LG=$(xkblayout-state print %s)
    dat=" [ {\ "name\":"layout\","full_text\":"$LG\"}"
    echo "${line/[\{/$dat,}\]} || exit 1
done
```

NOTE: the original script that uses #!/bin/sh fails on some systems where the default shell is not bash

Thank you for your comments/updates - I will update the article next week - I like the method you shown above. — [Marcin Herda 2014/04/20 15:52](#)

I had thought xkblayout-state was part of of stock Slackware. I'd rather keep everything with stock Slackware packages or packages available through SB.org. I've just made a small change to shorten setxkbmap command as well as additional ways of changing layouts. — [Marcin Herda 2014/04/26 04:41](#)

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