NAME

keyboard - keyboard configuration file

DESCRIPTION

The **keyboard** file describes the properties of the keyboard. It is read by **setupcon(1)** in order to configure the keyboard on the console. In Debian systems the default keyboard layout is described in */etc/default/keyboard* and it is shared between X and the console.

The specification of the keyboard layout in the **keyboard** file is based on the XKB options Xkb-Model, XkbLayout, XkbVariant and XkbOptions. Unfortunately, there is little documentation how to use them. Description of all possible values for these options can be found in the file *xorg.lst*.

You might want to read "The XKB Configuration Guide" by Kamil Toman and Ivan U. Pascal:

http://www.xfree86.org/current/XKB-Config.html

Other possible readings are:

https://wiki.archlinux.org/index.php/X_KeyBoard_extension
http://pascal.tsu.ru/en/xkb/
http://www.charvolant.org/˜doug/xkb/

The complete XKB-specification can be found on

http://xfree86.org/current/XKBproto.pdf

The file **keyboard** consists of variable settings in POSIX format:

VARIABLE=VALUE

Only one assignment is allowed per line. Comments (starting with '#') are also allowed.

OPTIONS

The following variables can be set.

XKBMODEL

Specifies the XKB keyboard model name. Default: **pc105** for most platforms.

XKBLAYOUT

Specifies the XKB keyboard layout name. This is usually the country or language type of the keyboard. Default: **us** for most platforms

XKBVARIANT

Specifies the XKB keyboard variant components. These can be used to further specify the keyboard layout details. Default: not set.

XKBOPTIONS

Specifies the XKB keyboard option components. Options usually relate to the behavior of the special keys (<Shift>, <Control>, <Alt>, <CapsLock>, etc.) Default: not set.

BACKSPACE

Determines the behavior of <BackSpace> and <Delete> keys on the console. Allowed values: **bs**, **del** and **guess**. In most cases you can specify **guess** here, in which case the current terminal settings and the kernel of your operating system will be used to determine the correct value. Value **bs** specifies VT100-conformant behavior: <BackSpace> will generate **ˆH** (ASCII BS) and <Delete> will generate **ˆ?** (ASCII DEL). Value **del** specifies VT220-conformant behavior: <BackSpace> will generate **ˆ?** (ASCII DEL) and <Delete> will generate a special function sequence.

KMAP

Usually this variable will be unset but if you don't want to use a XKB layout on the console, you can specify an alternative keymap here. Specify a file that is suitable as input for **loadkeys(1)** on Linux or for **kbdcontrol(1)** on FreeBSD.

FILES

The standard location of the **keyboard** file is */etc/default/keyboard*. Description of all available keyboard models, layouts, variants and options is available in */usr/share/X11/xkb/rules/xorg.lst*. In most cases, in */usr/share/keymaps/* or */usr/share/syscons/keymaps/* you will find several keymaps that can be used with the variable **KMAP**.

NOTES

In Debian systems, changes in */etc/default/keyboard* do not become immediately visible to X. You should either reboot the system, or use

    udevadm trigger --subsystem-match=input --action=change

BUGS

When a triple-layout is used, i.e. a layout with three XKB groups, then the group toggling happens in the following way: Group1 -> Group2 -> Group1 -> Group3.

On FreeBSD triple- and quadruple-layouts are not supported (only the first and the second layout are taken into account).

The option **grp:shifts_toggle** is not supported.

EXAMPLES

The following configuration will give you the standard US QWERTY layout (**us**). The key <Menu> will act as a compose key (**compose:menu**) and <CapsLock> will act as third control key (**ctrl:nocaps**).

    XKBLAYOUT=us
    XKBVARIANT=
    XKBOPTIONS=compose:menu,ctrl:nocaps

In the following configuration the right <Alt> key (**grp:toggle**) will toggle between US QWERTY layout (**us**) and Greek (**gr**) layout. The option **grp_led:scroll** is ignored on the console but in X in means to use the ScrollLock keyboard led as indicator for the current layout (US or Greek).

    XKBLAYOUT=us,gr
    XKBVARIANT=
    XKBOPTIONS=grp:toggle,grp_led:scroll

In the following configuration the <Control>+<Shift> key combination will toggle (**grp:ctrl_shift_toggle**) between French keyboard (**fr**) without dead keys (**nodeadkeys**) and British (**gb**) "Dvorak" (**dvorak**) keyboard. The right <Win> key will be a compose-key (**compose:rwin**) and the right <Alt> key will function as AltGr (**lv3:lalt_switch**).

    XKBLAYOUT=fr,gb
    XKBVARIANT=nodeadkeys,dvorak
    XKBOPTIONS=grp:ctrl_shift_toggle,compose:rwin,lv3:ralt_switch

SEE ALSO

setupcon(1), **ckbcomp(1)**, **console-setup(5)**, **loadkeys(1)**, **kbdcontrol(1)**