

# Automation and Productivity Tools for X Windows and Shells

STLLUG  
April 2018



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/](https://github.com/autokey/)

autokey (autokey-py3)

[autokey.github.io](https://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](http://autokey.github.io/index.html)

[code.google.com/archive/p/autokey/wikis](https://code.google.com/archive/p/autokey/wikis)

man page (minimal)

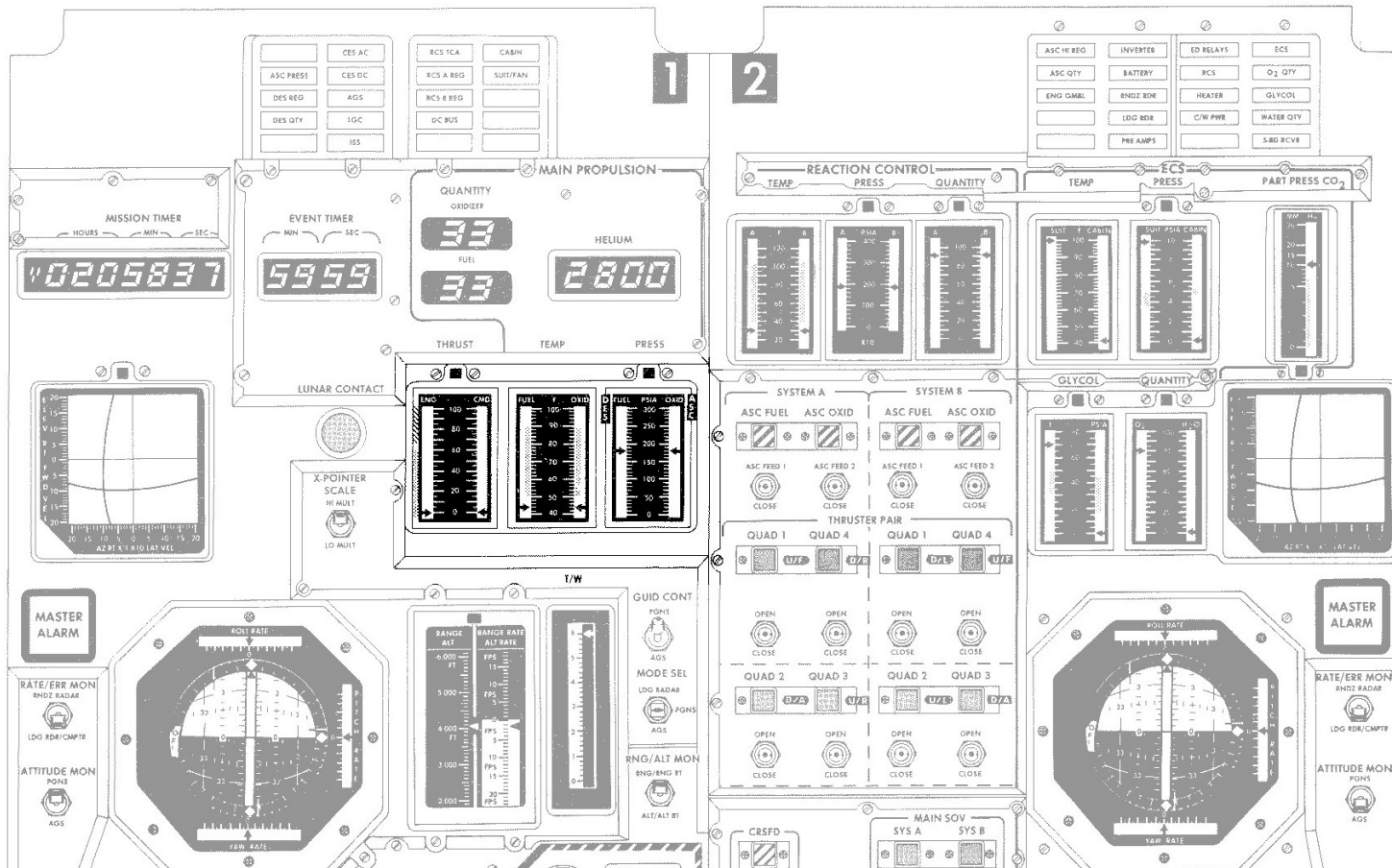
(`/usr/share/doc/autokey*` not useful)

# 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

regex testing (fail2ban)

# Getting Peco

Your favorite distro may have it

[github.com/peco/peco/releases](https://github.com/peco/peco/releases)

# Peco Demo

# Others

Searchable terminal emulators

Desktop switching

Midnight Commander / vishnu

# Questions?





The right tools  
speed up the work.