

This cheat sheet lists the default keybindings for i3. The first column contains the standard keybind, and the second column contains the alternate one.

Most of the shortcuts below use the Modification key or **Mod** key for short. The Mod key is usually defined when started i3 for the first time. This is usually set to the Win key or the Alt key. When you see **Mod** in the list below, press the key you configured in your system.

Basic Shortcuts		
The basic shortcuts you require to get around i3		
Mod+Enter		Open default terminal application. Uses i3-sensible-terminal to choose which terminal to open. Consult the man page for details.
Mod+d		Open dmenu (application launcher)
Mod+Shift+q		Close window
Mod+j	Mod+←	Focus left
Mod+k	Mod+↓	Focus down
Mod+l	Mod+↑	Focus up
Mod+;	Mod+→	Focus right
Mod+Shift+e		Exit i3
Managing Windows		
Default keybinds to change window focus or the split direction		
Mod+Shift+j	Mod+Shift+←	Move focused window left
Mod+Shift+k	Mod+Shift+↓	Move focused window down
Mod+Shift+l	Mod+Shift+↑	Move focused window up
Mod+Shift+;	Mod+Shift+→	Move focused window right
Mod+v		Split vertically
Mod+h		Split horizontally
Mod+f		Toggle full-screen mode
Containers and Layouts		
Containers are the building blocks of the i3 tree structure, used internally by i3 to store the window layout. For practical purposes you usually create a container upon splitting windows. For a more in-depth explanation, consult i3 Tree documentation.		
Mod+s		Switch to stacked layout. Displays only the focused window on the container. The list of windows is stacked on top of the container.
Mod+w		Switch to tabbed layout. Displays only the focused windows on the container. The list of windows is displayed in a single tabbed line at the top.
Mod+e		Toggle split mode. If in stacked or tabbed layout, goes back to split layout. If already in split layout, toggles between vertical and horizontal split.
Mod+Shift+Space		Toggle between floating and tiling modes
Mod+Space		Toggle focus between floating windows and tiled windows
Mod+a		Focus the parent container

Resize Mode

i3 has the concept of binding modes. A binding mode is a set of key bindings. Switching to a different mode changes all keybindings to a new set. By default, i3 has two modes: default and resize. The default or normal is the active mode when you start i3 and has all the keybinds not defined in an specific mode. Use the resize mode to resize the windows/containers.

Mod+r		Toggle resize mode
j	←	Shrink width by 10 px
k	↓	Grow height by 10 px
l	↑	Shrink height by 10 px
;	→	Grow width by 10 px
Enter	ESC	Exit resize mode, back to default/normal mode

Workspaces

Workspaces are arguably the most useful feature in i3. Using these keybindings you can quickly switch to a different workspace or move windows/containers around your workspaces.

Mod+Num		Switch to workspace number Num. For example, Mod+3 switches to workspace number 3.
Mod+Shift+Num		Move focused window to workspace number Num. For example, Mod+Shift+3 moves focused windows to workspace number 3.

i3 Control

Use these keybindings to reload, restart, or exit i3

Mod+Shift+c		Reload configuration file. Useful to add new custom shortcuts without restarting i3.
Mod+Shift+r		Restart i3 in place. Restarts i3 to make changes effective, e.g., upgrade i3. Preserves windows and layouts.
Mod+Shift+e		Exit i3