XQuartz

XQuartz is a X11 server for *macOS*.

Setup

Setup on *macOS* 26 includes:

1. install it with Homebrew: `brew install --cask xquartz`;
2. in *macOS* system settings allow running it in background;
3. try to find optimal *XQuartz* settings for your goals (for me see below).

The best *XQuartz* settings for my purposes were:[1)]

```
{
    "NSWindow Frame x11_apps" = "0 78 1512 871 0 0 1512 949 ";
    "NSWindow Frame x11_prefs" = "94 406 550 369 0 0 1512 949 ";
    SULastCheckTime = "2026-09-14 16:06:19 +0000";
    SUUpdateGroupIdentifier = 1688699947;
    "app_to_run" = "/opt/X11/bin/xterm";
    "apps_menu" =     (
                (
            "xfce4-terminal (server)",
            "ssh user@server xfce4-terminal",
            ""
        )
    );
    "cache_fonts" = 1;
    "done_xinit_check" = 1;
    "enable_iglx" = 0;
    "enable_key_equivalents" = 0;
    "login_shell" = "/bin/sh";
    "no_auth" = 0;
    "nolisten_tcp" = 0;
    "option_sends_alt" = 0;
    "startx_script" = "/opt/X11/bin/startx -- /opt/X11/bin/Xquartz";
    "sync_keymap" = 0;
}
```

This way i was able to change X11 keyboard settings using an own `~./Xmodmap`.



To change the start-up application away from “xterm” you **must** use a terminal (CLI), for example:

```
defaults write org.xquartz.X11 app_to_run /usr/bin/true
```

SSH Client

I use *XQuartz* to run *XFCE4* apps on a remote *Linux* server by using SSH:

```
ssh -Y "user@server" app
```

The following applications i run successfully so far:

- xterm
- xev
- xfig
- xpdf
- (GNU) emacs
- gimp
- thunar
- mx-tools
- xfce4-terminal
- xfce4-session (very slow, lot of warnings/errors)

SSH Server

On *MX Linux* server (which uses *systemd* at my site) i did:

- change `/etc/hostname` and `/etc/hosts` accordingly;
- install *OpenSSH* (SSH server);
- allow X11 forwarding in `/etc/ssh/sshd_config`:

```
X11Forwarding yes
X11UseLocalhost yes
```

- configure to start SSH daemon automatically:

```
sudo systemctl start ssh.service
```

- change `/etc/systemd/logind.conf` (not to power-down my laptop on lid close):

```
HandleLidSwitchExternalPower=ignore
```

[1)]
Requested via command line by: `defaults read org.xquartz.X11`.

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Last update: **2026/09/18 19:27**