How to configure Nautilus (Linux application like Windows Explorer) to work with standard Windows button + E On Linux GNOME en Mate

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As an ex-Windows user I'm still addicted to **Windows User brainwashing** as an ex-victim of Windows 95 / 98 and XP:), so I tend to love very much and its still hard for me to forget some major Key Binding (Windows Key Combinations).

On every new Desktop Linux I install, I have the habit to configure few great key combination shortcuts that makes my digital life much easier.
I use usually as a **graphical environment GNOME** and **recently switched to** *MATE* (GNOME 2 fork, cause GNOME 3 is totally messed up and unworthy to me), that's why this article is targetting this two Linux GUI envs, **I'll be glad to hear in article comments for any other**

useful key bindings and how to configure similar key bindings for other Major Linux graphical environments (*Cinnamon, KDE Plasma, XFCE, LXDE***).**

1. Configuring Lock Screen (Win button + L), Open Explorer(Win button + E), View Desktop (Win + D) in MATE graphic env

--------- WINDOWS BUTTON, OFTEN USED KEY SHORTCUTS ---------

Windows + E - Open new Windows File Explorer

Windows + L - Lock Computer

Windows + M - To minimize All Windows

Windows + D - Show Desktop (similar to Windows +M though it doesn't switch to Desktop)

Win - + / - To Maginfy Text and Windows

Shift + Win + Left/Right Arrow - (In Windows if you have multiple monitors connected to the same computer lets say Right Monitor and Left, that combination switches between left monitor and right monitor)

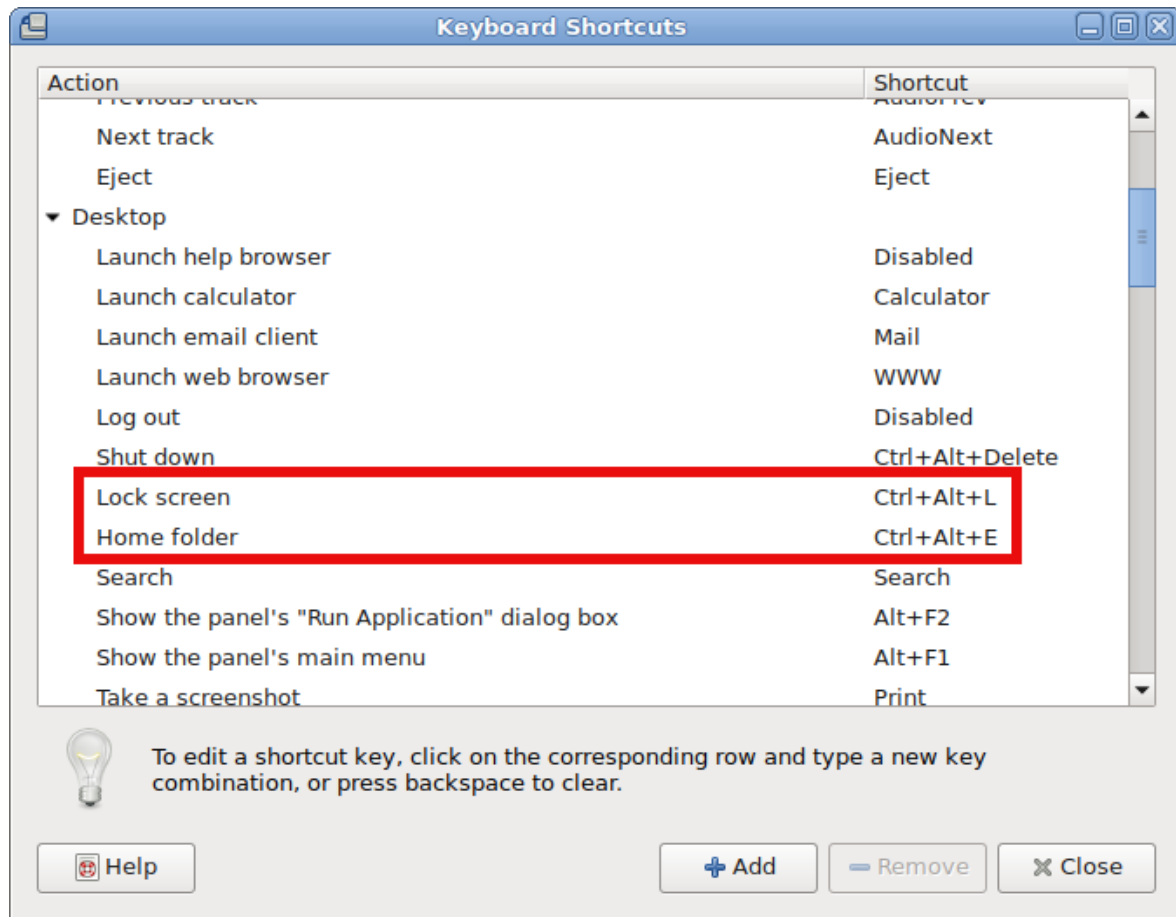
The list goes on but I'm not used to all of them, I'll stop here and continue on with how to remake some of my favourite Windows keybindings in Gnu / Linux

Either run it from Menus:

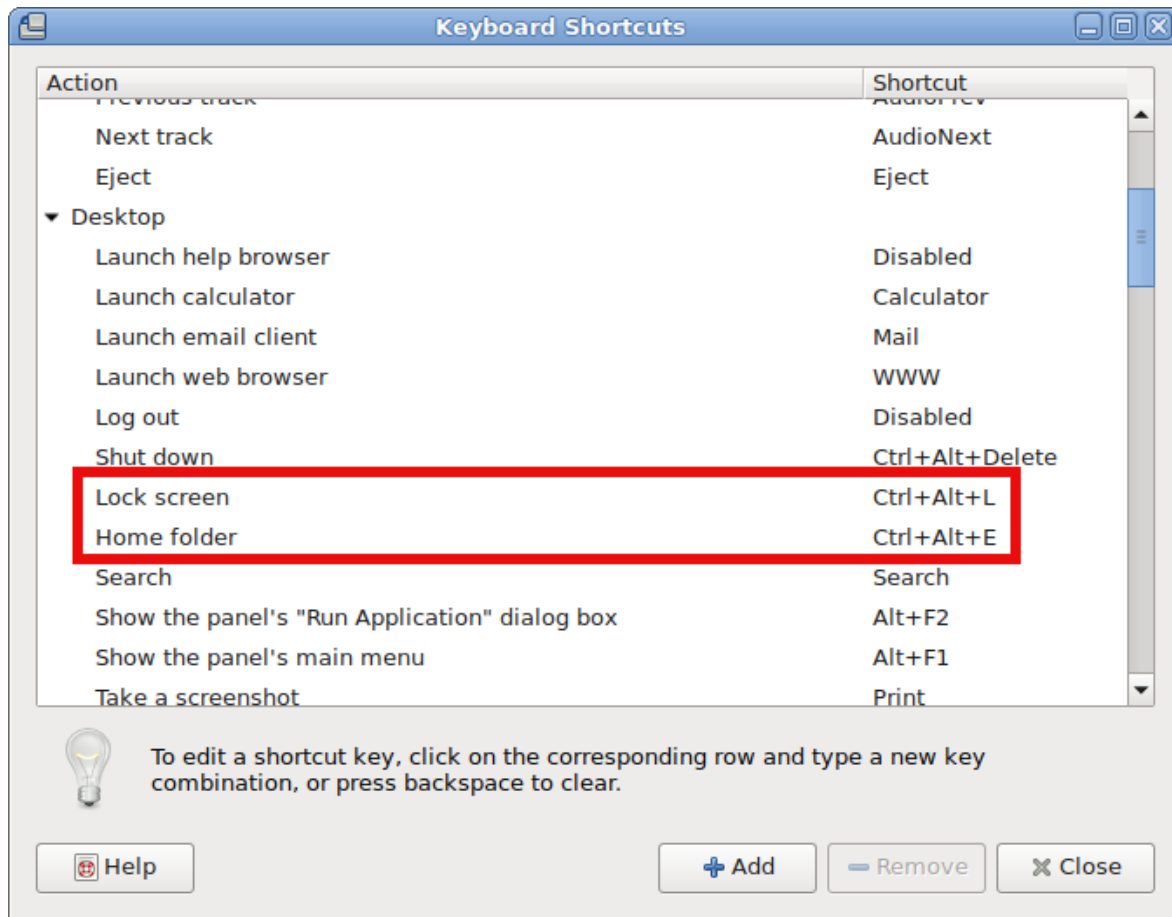*System -> Settings -> Hardware -> Keyboard Shortcuts*

Or run command

```
$ mate-keybinding-properties
```

After rebinding the Windows:
- **Lock Screen and** *Open New Nautilus Explorer Window (Home folder) variable to be invoked with Windows button, the result*
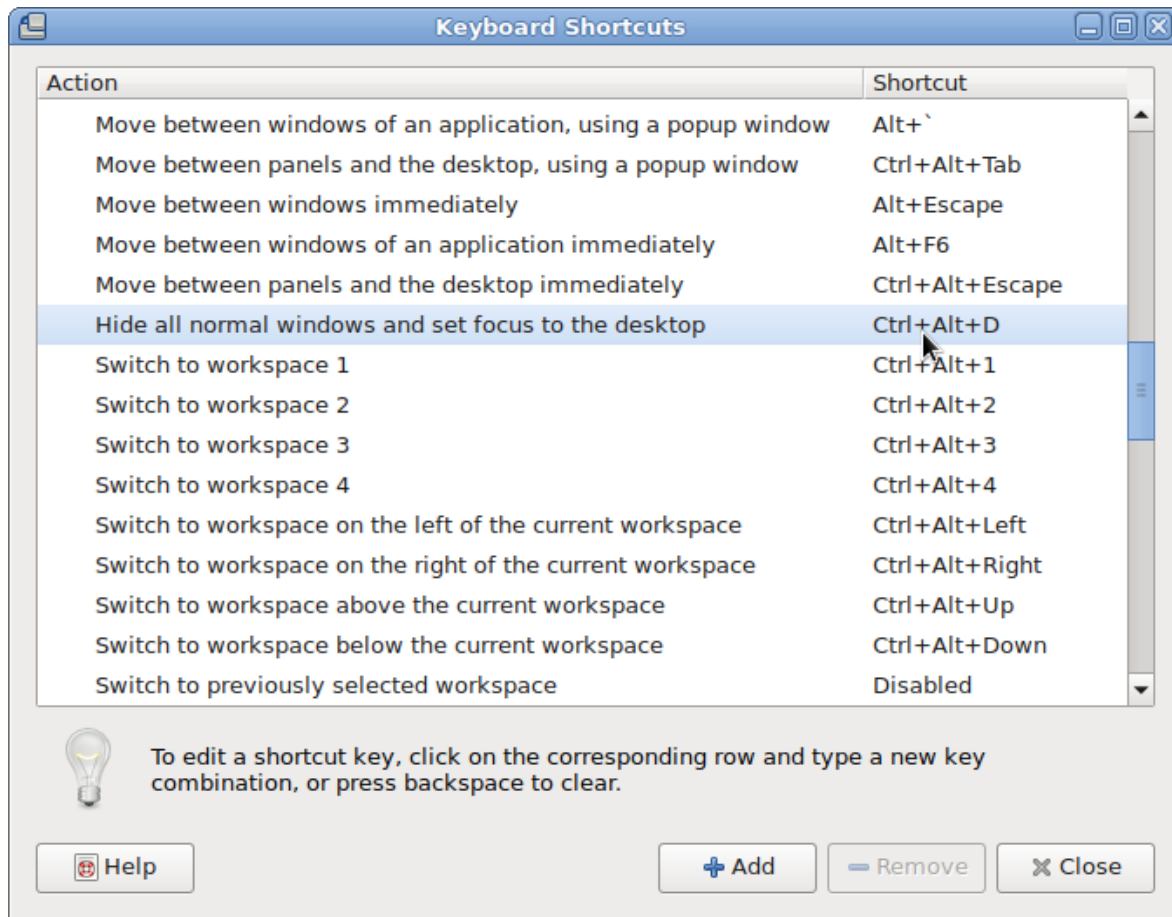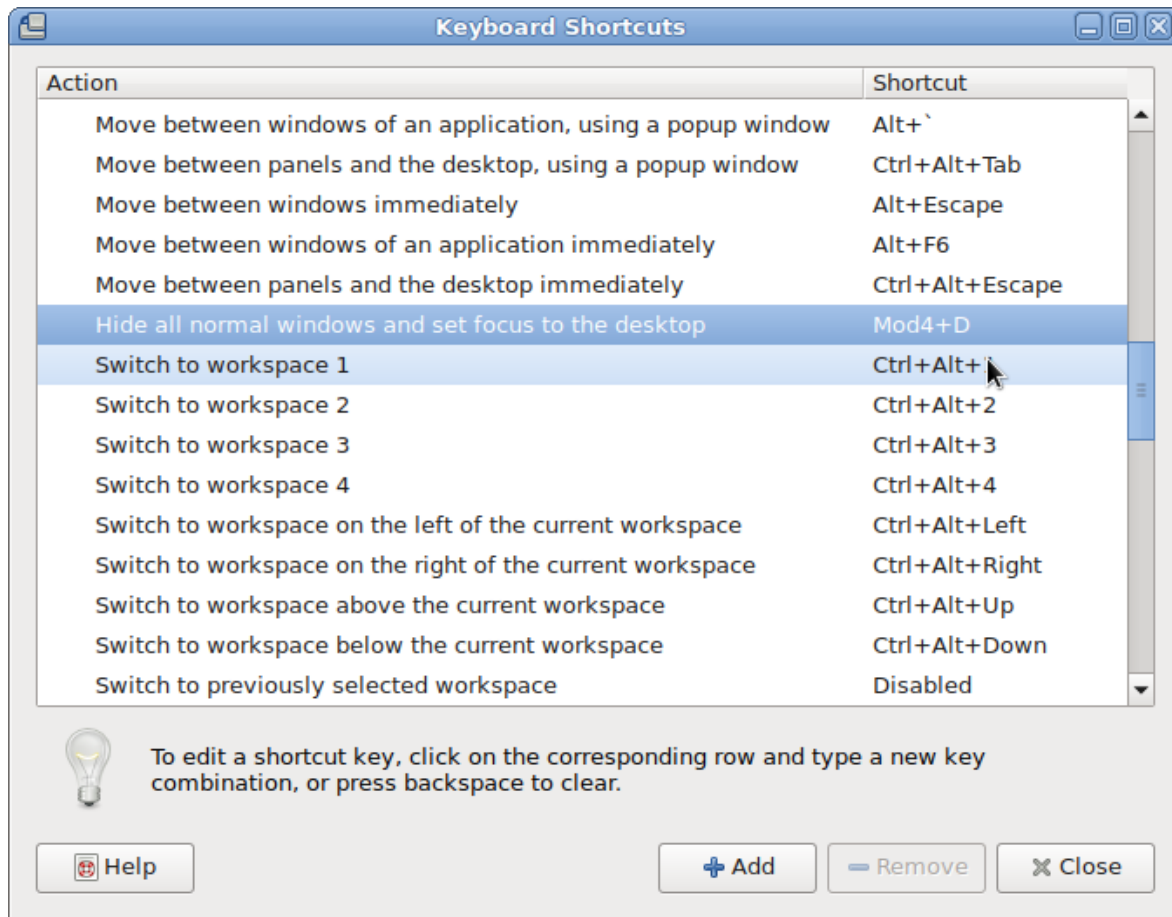
is as that:

Scroll down **Mate Keyboard shortcuts** and you'll find

   also how to configure Windows Button and D Key Combination, following 2 more screenshots showing how to do it note that MOD Key appears once you press Windows Keyboard Key + something (e.g. MATE recognizes MOD Key as Win Key):

Before the change to bind Win Key + D to work:

Action	Shortcut
Move between windows of an application, using a popup window	Alt+`
Move between panels and the desktop, using a popup window	Ctrl+Alt+Tab
Move between windows immediately	Alt+Escape
Move between windows of an application immediately	Alt+F6
Move between panels and the desktop immediately	Ctrl+Alt+Escape
Hide all normal windows and set focus to the desktop	Ctrl+Alt+D
Switch to workspace 1	Ctrl+Alt+1
Switch to workspace 2	Ctrl+Alt+2
Switch to workspace 3	Ctrl+Alt+3
Switch to workspace 4	Ctrl+Alt+4
Switch to workspace on the left of the current workspace	Ctrl+Alt+Left
Switch to workspace on the right of the current workspace	Ctrl+Alt+Right
Switch to workspace above the current workspace	Ctrl+Alt+Up
Switch to workspace below the current workspace	Ctrl+Alt+Down
Switch to previously selected workspace	Disabled

To edit a shortcut key, click on the corresponding row and type a new key combination, or press backspace to clear.

Help   ＋ Add   ━ Remove   ✕ Close

When configured Win Button + D looks **like so:**

2. Configuring Lock Screen (Win button + L), Open Explorer(Win button + E), View Desktop (Win + D) in GNOME

Usually in GNOME until > version 3.X.X (in older GNOME graphic environment access to KeyBinding Properties was done via:

System -> Preferences -> Keybord Shortcuts -> Add ->?

In fallback gnome with Metacity (if installed along with GNOME Desktop 3.2.X environment to access
Key Bindings):

d

System->Apps->Metacity->global_keybindings

Also it is possible to remap keys via dconf-editor, I've written a small article earlier explaining how to remap Screenshotting buttons with dconf-editor but the example could be easily adapted, so you can edit almost everything.

Besides that you can use a command to run the keyboard configuration (in older GNOMEs) via:
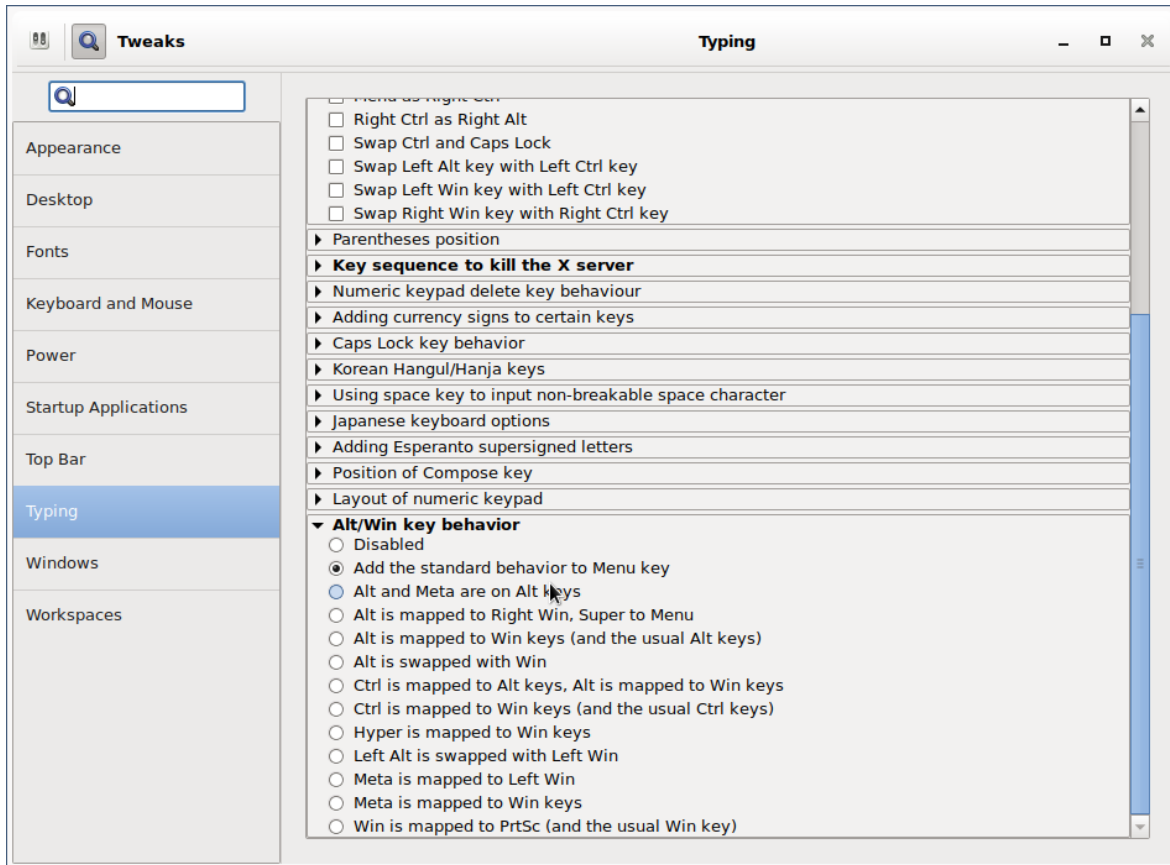
linux:~$ gnome-keybinding-properties

Just for information for those who might know, many Key Binding interesting options are available via *gnome-tweak-tool*, so if you don't have it yet install it and give it a try:

linux:~# apt-get install --yes gnome-tweak-tool

As you can see, there are plenty of options to make Win (key) to act like Alt (key):

linux:~# gnome-tweak-tool

After configuring the changes enjoy your *WINDOWS Button + L, WINDOWS + E and WINDOWS + D* WORKING AGAIN HOORAY !!! :)

3. Most used shortcuts in Gnome and Nautilus

Below are most used shortcuts thanks to LinuxQuestions Forum for providing them

Howdy! I thought that it would be useful to post a practical selection of shortcut keys for GNOME (the Desktop Environment) and Nautilus (the File Manager) and some information about customizing shortcut keys in Ubuntu. I wrote it especially for Ubuntu beginners, but I hope it will prove useful for all.

2.1 GNOME/Nautilus shortcut keys - Very useful for the keyboard maniax like me :):

Ctrl-H: show hidden files

Ctrl-N: new window

Ctrl-Shift-N: create new folder

Alt-Home : jump to home folder

Alt-Enter : file / folder properties

F9 : toggle side-pane

Alt-F1 : launch applications menu

Alt-F2 : launch "run application" dialogue

Ctrl-Alt - Right/Left arrow : move to the next virtual desktop

Ctrl-Alt-Shift - Right/Left arrow : take current window to the next virtual desktop

Ctrl-Alt-D: minimize all windows, and gives focus to the desktop.

Alt-Tab: switch between windows. When you use these shortcut keys, a list of windows that you can select is displayed. Release the keys to select a window.

Ctrl-Alt-Tab: switch the focus between the panels and the desktop. When you use these shortcut keys, a list of items that you can select is displayed. Release the keys to select an item.

Ctrl-Alt-L: lock the screen (tested only in Ubuntu)

Ctrl-L: shortcut for opening locations-by default the path is the home folder*
/ : same as Ctrl-L but has the root (/) as default path* (shortcut found on here)

* both shortcuts can be used while you are on the desktop (no window active)

Ctrl-T : move to trash (in Nautilus)
Quite dangerous key combination because many of us are used to press these keys in order to open a new tab. Because we all delete items using the Delete key, I recommend to deactivate this shortcut key. To do that, go to System » Preferences » Appearance » Interface. Select Editable menu shortcut keys and close the dialog box. Click on the Edit menu in the File Browser. Click the Empty Trash item (it has Ctrl-T as the keyboard shortcut) Press the Delete key to get rid of the shortcut.

You can find all GNOME shortcut keys here

2.2 How to create a custom hotkey to launch whatever application you want in GNOME

As an example, we will set a lock-screen shortcut.

Open "gconf-editor" as the user as you're logged in in GNOME (typing gconf-editor in the terminal or "Run Application").

Go to apps > metacity > keybinding_commands

Here we have a list of twelve slots for commands.

Double click on e.g. "run_command_1"

In Key Value Type in the name of the application or command you want to launch (e.g. gnome-screensaver-command --lock).

Go to apps -> Metacity -> global_keybindings

Double click on e.g. "run_command_1"
Change the key value to whatever key combination you like (e.g. **L**).Press "**Ok**".

2.3.How to create/change GNOME shortcuts

Click on System -> Preferences -> Keyboard Shortcuts

Click the action in the list and press Enter.
Press the new key or key combination you want to assign to the action. (To clear a shortcut, press the
Backspace key)

Hope it helps, Enjoy Life .;)