Apple Removes X11 in OS X Mountain Lion, Shifts Support to Open Sour...  http://www.macrumors.com/2012/02/17/apple-removes-x11-in-os-x-mountain-...
Apple Removes X11 in OS X Mountain Lion, Shifts Support to Open Source XQuartz

Friday February 17, 2012 7:27 am PST by Eric Slivka
As noticed by several users running the developer preview version of OS X 10.8 Mountain Lion, Apple is no longer supporting software through the X Window System interface. A popular option for scientists and others seeking to run special applications across networks, X11 has been available on OS X for a number of years and has been included as a default install. The X Window System has an extensive open source history, with development on the Mac side being handled under XQuartz, which has been based on this effort, although as with many open source projects bundled for use in commercial software, Apple has continued to support the development of X11 on OS X with the open source community. The current version of X11 is 2.6.3, while XQuartz is currently available in version 2.7.0.

With Mountain Lion, Apple seems to be eliminating its dedicated support for the X11 application, instead redirecting users to the XQuartz website for ongoing support. The XQuartz website states that XQuartz will continue to support X11 on OS X for the open source community.

The X Window System has an extensive open source history, with development on the Mac side being handled under XQuartz, which has been based on this effort, although as with many open source projects bundled for use in commercial software, Apple has continued to support the development of X11 on OS X with the open source community. The current version of X11 is 2.6.3, while XQuartz is currently available in version 2.7.0.

With Mountain Lion, Apple seems to be eliminating its dedicated support for the X11 application, instead redirecting users to the XQuartz website for ongoing support. The XQuartz website states that XQuartz will continue to support X11 on OS X for the open source community.

[156 comments]
Top Rated Comments

(View all)

nickn
33 months ago
Is ML really an update? It seems like a downgrade in many respects.
Rating: 47 Votes

jeremyhu
33 months ago

THis is having an incredible negative effect upon programs in ML.

GIMP wont run even with Xquartz

It runs fine for tons of users. Are you experiencing a specific issue? If so please report a l
CrossOver does not launch Windows programs correctly, and instead shuts down.

CrossOver ships their own server and does not actually use anything from Apple's X11 except for quartz-wm. I suggest versions of Crossover that will work on Mountain Lion.

MacPorts is useless (Not just because of X11, but because of changes to Xcode)

Yeah, there are a few bugs to be worked out.

As with most updates, MacPorts will need to adjust to this change. We're working on it, a

information.

-----------

This isn't just a removal, where reinstallation via XQuartz fixes things all nice and neat.

Please use the latest rc version of XQuartz (currently 2.7.1_rc4). As you probably discov

All the underlying launchd mechanisms that made the Apple X11 function so well with pi
methods, for example, are ripped out. Installation of the XQuatz package does nothing to

That's not true. XQuartz sets $DISPLAY for you (and always has). You need to logout an
and in the installer.

-----------

Since there's no way to get the old startx methods to work anymore -- because they're jus

What do you mean? The entire startup sequence for XQuartz is based on xinit and startx.
This is not something they'll be fixing. I hope XQuartz manages to do something about it, orphanware in a hurry.

About what? File bugs, and they'll get fixed in time. I can't fix bugs I don't know about ;)

----------

Bingo! There was no point in Apple shipping it since we could get the latest version via open source. Only problem X11 will work when a new version of the OS ships.

Note that All of X11 is based off of public APIs except for a small set of "private" APIs i updated for future releases, it should "just work"

Its possible for OS X to break X11 and the open source XQuartz team to have to quickly

Yeah, but seeing as how the "open source XQuartz team" is 99% @apple.com, I think the

Its probably not much of a concern if you wait a couple weeks after the release of a new available to XQuartz within a few weeks (or possibly before) release of OS X, given the

Actually versions of XQuartz that work with Mountain Lion were released well in advance 2.7.1_rc4 works great with it.

----------

Can someone confirm that Matlab works with XQuartz?

Yes.

----------
Make no mistake. XQuartz doesn't work in its present form on ML.

Don't know if I can make it plainer.

File bug reports.


You installed the wrong version. Install 2.7.1_rc4.

----------

Is the fact that removing X11 causes various applications to break not a valid concern?

It is a valid concern. Please report problems.

I occasionally use GIMP, but according to various posters, it no longer works, even with XQuartz. Will you be working with my photos when 10.8 comes out?

No, but I will fix bugs if you report them. gimp runs fine here, but I'm by no means a gimp power user.

Rating: 39 Votes

theluggage
33 months ago

This is having an incredible negative effect upon programs in ML.
Yeah. What they ought to do is release some sort of "Developer Preview" 5 or 6 months before things and had time to produce fixes.

**Rating:** 35 Votes

macduke
33 months ago

Is ML really an update? It seems like a downgrade in many respects.

Do you really know what you're talking about? It seems like you really don't know what you're talking about.

**Rating:** 34 Votes

KnightWRX
33 months ago

I guess this will be another "dumbing down" thread. :rolleyes:

Anyone who was using X11 on OS X (myself included) never really bothered with Apple.

**Rating:** 26 Votes

godknows
33 months ago

Is ML really an update? It seems like a downgrade in many respects.

Stuff like this should really be optional. Not everyone uses it.

**Rating:** 25 Votes
displaced
33 months ago
So, the facts are:

[List]
[*] Xquartz is the open source X11-compatible window server for Mac OS X
[*] Xquartz is maintained by Apple-employed developers. It's an Apple-sponsored open source project.
[*] The 'X11' app bundled with various OS X releases has historically been a snapshot of the Xquartz code, renamed to X11.app.
[*] There was some extra 'glue' which made the Xquartz snapshot known as X11.app behave extra nice with OS X.

[/LIST]

So the actual change in Mountain Lion is that:

[List]
[*] Apple will no longer be bundling re-labelled Xquartz versions with OS X.
[*] OS X will instead prompt the user to download Xquartz when an X11-dependent application runs.

[/LIST]

Now, clearly there's been a shift in responsibility here. The OS X team no longer take responsibility for integrating releases. Rather, the Xquartz team (still Apple employees, remember) need to build up their processes for producing releases as the 'glue's got lost. Whatever OS X used to do for X11.app/Xquartz, Xquartz is now going to have to do for itself. It's probably going to take some time to start down that road since Mountain Lion is still such a moving target. Hence the lack of integration in the present developer preview (DP).

I'm failing to see the malice, neglect or otherwise here. Rather, it's letting the Xquartz team control their schedule and not having to rely on people seeking out and installing Xquartz on their own.

Bear in mind also that the third-party developers will also take a little bit to adjust. They've been used to being able to use the OS X bundle of X11.app/Xquartz. Instead, they'll need to test against the current release of Xquartz.

We're only about 24hrs into Mountain Lion's public history... so let's give everyone involved some credit.

Rating: 15 Votes
Dont know why its not, but it does not work at all in ML.

Just remember, ML is just a beta at this point. That's the point of betas: find out what doe

Rating: 14 Votes

Gee, thanks, Apple, for continuing to not support legacy technologies and destroy people

If every company spent all their time building in support for outdated legacy **** that or

X11 is not legacy technology. Geez. It's just that Apple was doing a poor job of shipping i relying on XQuartz's efforts in the matter.

It's a good thing Apple removed it and tells people to go get XQuartz.

Rating: 12 Votes

Love the people who act like 10.8 was pushed out to all users publicly.

Love em.

Rating: 12 Votes
Apple Removes X11 in OS X Mountain Lion, Shifts Support to Open Sour...

http://www.macrumors.com/2012/02/17/apple-removes-x11-in-os-x-mounta...
iPhone 6 September 9

Media event set for September 9, launch likely ~10 days later.

iWatch September 9

Unveiling September 9 alongside iPhone 6, but launch date unclear.

iOS 8 Fall 2014

Public launch likely ~1 week after Sept. 9 iPhone 6 event.

OS X Yosemite Fall 2014
Mac mini Release date uncertain

Front Page Stories

Apple Blogger John Gruber Hints at NFC For iPhone 6

3 hours ago on Front Page

Following a report from Wired suggesting NFC-based mobile paym
Re/code, Apple blogger John Gruber has now thrown in...
84 comments
- **More Claims of September 9 Debut for Apple's Wearable Device, Likely Posit**

  4 hours ago on Front Page

  Yesterday, Re/code broke the news that Apple planned to introduce its upcoming wearable device. Bloomberg is seconding that rumor, pointing towards a simultaneous debut...

  132 comments

- **Apple Building Massive Structure at Flint Center for iPhone 6 Event**

  9 hours ago on Front Page

  Apple today issued invitations for its upcoming iPhone 6 event on September 9. According to the invitations, Apple is planning to...

  337 comments

- **Apple Issues Media Invitations for September 9 Event: 'Wish We Could Say N**

  9 hours ago on Front Page

  As noted by The Loop, Apple today issued media invitations to the September 9 event, which will show off not only the iPhone 6 but also its first wearable...

  503 comments

- **NFC-Based Mobile Payments Said to Be a 'Hallmark' Feature of iPhone 6**

  11 hours ago on Front Page
Apple's next iPhone may indeed include a mobile payment platform reveal how the system would work, but the...

193 comments

- **New Photos of Claimed iPhone 6 Parts Show Closer Look at Rear Logo, Revea**

  16 hours ago on Front Page

  New photos of various components said to be from the iPhone 6 ha at both internal and external parts to be used in the device....

  141 comments

- **Apple to Unveil Wearable Device on September 9 Alongside iPhone 6**

  1 day ago on Front Page

  Apple has plans to unveil its upcoming wearable device in Septemb Apple had planned to debut the device at an October event,...

  385 comments

- **More Evidence of NFC Support for Both iPhone 6 Models**

  1 day ago on Front Page

  Last week, Chinese repair firm GeekBar shared a claimed schemat
the device's rumored near field communications (NFC)...  
146 comments

- Apple to Reportedly Launch Thinner MacBook by End of 2015 (210)
- Hands On With QuickBoard, a Quick Text Insertion Keyboard Coming to iOS 8 (85)
- Apple CEO Tim Cook: Drop in iPad Sales Just a 'Speed Bump' (210)
- Apple to Launch 12.9-Inch iPad in Early 2015 (201)
- Beats Music Launches Promotional iTunes Festival Contest (22)
- Verizon Preparing to Launch Voice Over LTE Network in September (107)
- L.A. Unified School District Suspends $1 Billion iPad Contract with Apple (193)

Rumors by Product

iPhone - iPad - iPad Mini - iPod
MacBook Pro - Retina MacBook Pro
MacBook Air
Mac mini - iMac - Mac Pro

Blogs: iPhone - Mac
MacRumors attracts a broad audience of both consumers and professionals interested in focused on purchasing decisions and technical aspects of the iPhone, iPod, iPad, and Mac platforms.

Advertise on MacRumors

Our Staff

Arnold Kim
Editorial Director
Email • Twitter

Eric Slivka
Editor in Chief
Email • Twitter • Google+

Jordan Golson
Editor
Email • Twitter

Marianne Schultz
Editor
Email • Twitter

Juli Clover
Editor
Email • Twitter

Husain Sumra
Contributing Editor
Email • Twitter

Richard Padilla
Contributing Editor
Email • Twitter

Kelly Hodgkins
Contributing Editor

Apple Removes X11 in OS X Mountain Lion, Shifts Support to Open Sour...  http://www.macrumors.com/2012/02/17/apple-removes-x11-in-os-x-moun...
Nitrome's 'Icebreaker: A Viking's Voyage' Goes Free as Apple's "App of the Week"
Rovio Releases Gameplay Teaser for 'Angry Birds Stella' Ahead of September 4th
'Castle of Illusion' Gets a Massive Price Cut, on Sale for Just 99¢
RPG Reload File 003 - 'The Bard's Tale (1985)'
PSA: This Weekend is the Last Chance to Get the First Wing of 'Hearthstone: Curs
Check Out 'Sunburn,' a Game About Throwing Astronauts into the Sun

Apple Announces iOS 8 and Mac OS X 'Yosemite'
Fantastical 2 for iPad Now Available
Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, and Excel for iPad Now Available
Clear for iPhone and iPad Goes Free for 24 Hours
See Who's at Your Door with SkyBell for iPhone
Unlock Your Mac by Knocking on Your iPhone with 'Knock'

Copyright © 2000-2014 MacRumors.com, LLC.
Privacy / DMCA contact / Affiliate and FTC Disclosure

Mobile Version | Fixed | Fluid | Fluid HD