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Apple Removes X11 in OS X Mountain Li 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 Mounta software through the X Window System interface. A popular option for scientists and oth across networks, X11 has been available on OS X for a number of years and has been inc

The X Window System has an extensive open source history, with development on the M has been based on this effort, although as with many open source projects bundled for us latest XQuartz releases. The current version of X11 is 2.6.3, while XQuartz is currently a

With Mountain Lion, Apple seems to eliminating its dedicated support for the X11 applic it will continue to support.

[156 comments]

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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 b

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 ex
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 p
methods, for example, are ripped out. Installation of the XQuatrz package does nothing t

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 o 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 th;

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 advanc 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.

Yep. Installed. Tested. Failed. Debugged. Failed. Next?

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 X
work 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
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 a 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 y
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 s
[*]The 'X11' app bundled with various OS X releases has historically been a snapshot of t
[*]There was some extra 'glue' which made the Xquartz snapshot known as X11.app beha
[/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 appli
[/LIST]

Now, clearly there's been a shift in responsibility here. The OS X team no longer take resp
releases.

Rather, the Xquartz team (**still** Apple employees, remember) need to build up their proce
the 'glue's got lost. Whatever OS X used to do for [X11.app/Xquartz](#), Xquartz is now going
early to start down that road since ML is still such a moving target. Hence the lack of inte

I'm failing to see the malice, neglect or otherwise here. Rather, it's letting the Xquartz tea
without 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'v
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 involv
Rating: 15 Votes

[guzhogi](#)
33 months ago

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

[KnightWRX](#)
33 months ago

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 on

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

[pmz](#)
33 months ago
Love the people who act like 10.8 was pushed out to all users publicly.

Love em.
Rating: 12 Votes

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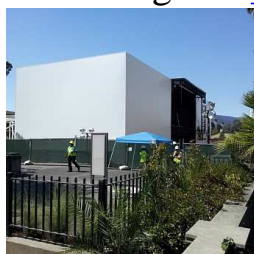
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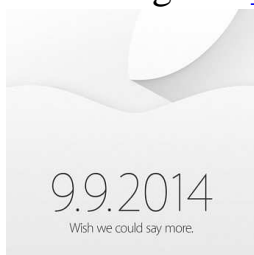 9 hours ago on Front Page

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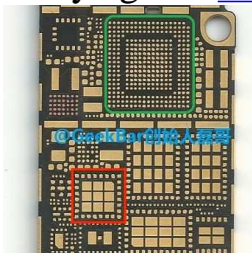- **[Apple to Unveil Wearable Device on September 9 Alongside iPhone 6](#)**

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