Release Notes for X11R7.7

The X.Org Foundation [http://www.x.org/wiki/XorgFoundation]

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Abstract

These release notes contain information about features and their status in the X.Org Foundation X11R7.7 release.

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Introduction to the X11R7.7 Release

This release is the eighth modular release of the X Window System $^{\text{\tiny TM}}$. The next full release will be X11R7.8 and is expected in 2013.

Unlike X11R1 through X11R6.9, X11R7.x releases are not built from one monolithic source tree, but many individual modules. These modules are distributed as individual source code releases, and each one is released when it is ready, instead of only when the overall window system is ready for release. The X11R7.x releases are made by "rolling up" the individual module releases into a collection that is often affectionately called the "katamari" by the developers.

The X11R7.7 release does not include all of the software formerly included in the previous X Window System releases. It is designed to be a reasonable baseline from which to start when building the window system for the first time for a new installation, distribution, or package set. It does not provide a full desktop environment, expecting a more feature rich set of applications to be installed from one of the several excellent desktop environments available for the X Window System. The X.Org developers continue to maintain and produce new releases of much of the software that was formerly in the main window system releases but is no longer included in the katamari releases, including many of the Athena Widgets desktop applications that were provided as samples in previous window system versions.

Once their window system build is established, most builders watch for announcements of individual module updates on the xorg-announce mailing list [http://lists.x.org/mailman/listinfo/xorg-announce] and update to those as needed. The X.Org Foundation currently releases the X Window System katamari releases approximately once a year, but many modules, especially the X servers and drivers, are updated more frequently between those releases.

For help with how to build and develop in the modular tree see the Modular Developer's Guide [http://wiki.x.org/wiki/ModularDevelopersGuide] in the X.Org wiki.

We encourage you to report bugs using freedesktop.org's bug tracking system [https://bugs.freedesktop.org/] using the xorg product, and to submit bug fixes and enhancements to <xorg-devel@lists.x.org>. More details on patch submission and review process are available on the SubmittingPatches [http://www.x.org/wi-ki/Development/Documentation/SubmittingPatches] page of the X.Org wiki.

The release numbering is based on the original MIT X numbering system. X11 refers to the version of the network protocol that the X Window system is based on: Version 11 was first released in 1988 and has been stable for nearly 25 years, with only upward compatible additions to the core X protocol, a record of stability envied in computing. Formal releases of X started with X version 9 from MIT; the first commercial X products were based on X version 10. The MIT X Consortium and its successors, the X Consortium, the Open Group X Project Team, and the X.Org Group released versions X11R3 through X11R6.6. Since the founding of the X.Org Foundation in early 2004, many further releases have been issued, from X11R6.7 to the current 7.7.

The next section describes what is new in the latest full release (7.7) compared with the previous full release (7.6).

Summary of new features in X11R7.7

This is a sampling of the new features in X11R7.7. A more complete list of changes can be found in the ChangeLog files that are part of the source of each X module.

- *Multi-touch* events are now supported for touchpads and touchscreens which can report position information on more than one finger providing input at the same time, such as found on many tablets and recent laptops. These are exposed by Xorg server 1.12 and later via the Xinput extension version 2.2.
- Additional Xinput extension features were introduced in version 2.1, as supported
 in Xorg server 1.11, including allowing clients to track raw events from input
 devices, additional detail in scrolling events so that clients may perform smoother
 scrolling, and additional constants in the Xlib-based libXi API.
- More progress has been made on the X.Org Documentation modernization the rest of the library and protocol specifications have been converted to DocBook XML from the variety of formats they were previously in, and support for cross-linking between documents hase been added. On most systems these documents will be installed under /usr/share/doc/. They are also posted on the X.Org website at http://www.x.org/releases/X11R7.7/.
- Fence objects are now available in Version 3.1 of the Synchronization ("Sync") extension. These allow clients to create a object that is either in "triggered" or "not-triggered" state, and to perform actions when the object becomes triggered. When a client requests a fence be triggered, the X server will first complete all rendering from previous requests that affects resources owned by the fence's screen before changing the state, so that clients may synchronize with such rendering. Support for these has been added to both the libxcb-sync and libxext API's.
- Pointer barriers were added by X Fixes extension Version 5.0. Compositing managers and desktop environments may have UI elements in particular screen locations such that for a single-headed display they correspond to easy targets, for example, the top left corner. For a multi-headed environment these corners should still be semi-impermeable. Pointer barriers allow the application to define additional constraint on cursor motion so that these areas behave as expected even in the face of multiple displays.
- Version 1.2 of the X Resource extension provides new requests that allow clients
 to query for additional identification information about other clients, such as their
 process id, and to request size information about the resources clients have allocated in the X server, to allow better observability and easier debugging of client
 resource allocations in the server.
- The XCB libraries have begun adding support for the GLX and XKB extensions. This work is not yet complete in this release, and not all of the functionality available through these extensions is accessibile via the XCB APIs. Some of this effort was funded by past Google Summer of Code projects.
- *Video and input driver enhancements*. Please see the ChangeLog files for individual drivers; there are far too many updates to list here.
- ... and the usual assortment of correctness and crash fixes.

Overview of X11R7.7

On most platforms, X11R7.7 has a single hardware-driving X server binary called **Xorg**. This binary can dynamically load the video drivers, input drivers, and other modules that are needed. **Xorg** has currently has support for Linux, Solaris, and some BSD OSs on Alpha, PowerPC, IA-64, AMD64, Intel x86, Sparc, and MIPS platforms.

Additional specialized X server binaries may be found depending on the platform and build configuration, including:

Xdmx is a proxy X server that uses one or more other X

servers as its display devices. It provides multi-head X functionality for displays that might be located on dif-

ferent machines.

Xnest is a nested X server, that operates as both an X client

and X server. **Xnest** is a client of the real server which manages windows and graphics requests on its behalf. **Xnest** is a server to its own clients, and manages windows and graphics requests on their behalf. To these

clients, it appears to be a conventional server.

Xephyr is a X server that outputs to a window on a pre-exist-

ing "host" X display. Unlike **Xnest** which is an X proxy, and thus limited to the capabilities of the host X server, **Xephyr** is a full X server which uses the host X server window as a "framebuffer" via fast SHM XImages.

Xvfb is a virtual framebuffer X server that can run on ma-

chines with no display hardware and no physical input devices. It emulates a dumb framebuffer using virtual

memory.

Xquartz is an X server that interacts with the MacOS X native

Aqua window system, displaying windows on the Mac desktop and accepting input from the Mac system devices, allowing X11 applications to be used in a native

Mac desktop session.

Xwin is an X server that runs under the Cygwin environment,

interacting with the Microsoft Windows native window system, displaying windows on the Windows desktop and accepting input from the Windows system devices, allowing X11 applications to be used in a native Win-

dows desktop session.

Details of X11R7.7 components

Video Drivers

X11R7.7 includes the following video drivers:

Driver Name	Description	Further Information
ark	Ark Logic	
ast	ASPEED Technology	
cirrus	Cirrus Logic	
fbdev	Linux framebuffer device	fbdev(4) [fbdev.4.html]
geode (*)	AMD Geode GX and LX	
glint	3Dlabs, TI	<pre>glint(4) [glint.4.html]</pre>
i128	Number Nine	README.I128 [I128.txt], i128(4) [i128.4.html]
intel	Intel Integrated Graphics Processors	README.intel [intel.txt], intel(4) [intel.4.html]
mach64	ATI Mach64	README.ati [ati.txt]
mga	Matrox	mga(4) [mga.4.html]
neomagic	NeoMagic	<pre>neomagic(4) [neomagic.4.html]</pre>
newport (-)	SGI Newport	README.newport [newport.txt], newport(4) [newport.4.html]
nv	NVIDIA	nv(4) [nv.4.html]
r128	ATI Rage128	README.r128 [r128.txt], r128(4) [r128.4.html]
radeon	ATI Radeon	radeon(4) [radeon.4.html]
savage	S3 Savage	<pre>savage(4) [savage.4.html]</pre>
siliconmotion	Silicon Motion	siliconmotion(4) [siliconmotion.4.html]
sis	SiS	README.SiS [SiS.txt], sis(4) [sis.4.html]
suncg6 (+)	Sun GX and Turbo GX	
sunffb(+)	Sun Creator/3D, Elite 3D	
tdfx	3Dfx Voodoo Banshee, 3, 4 & 5	tdfx(4) [tdfx.4.html]
tga	DEC TGA	README.DECtga [DECtga.html]
trident	Trident	<pre>trident(4) [trident.4.html]</pre>
v41	Video4Linux	v4l(4) [v4l.4.html]
vesa	VESA	vesa(4) [vesa.4.html]
vmware	VMware guest OS	vmware(4) [vmware.4.html]
voodoo	3Dfx Voodoo 1 & 2	voodoo(4) [voodoo.4.html]
wsfb	Workstation Framebuffer	wsfb(4) [wsfb.4.html]

Drivers marked with (*) are present in a preliminary form in this release, but are not complete and/or stable yet.

Drivers marked with (+) are for Linux/Sparc only.

Drivers marked with (-) are for Linux/mips only.

Input Drivers

X11R7.7 includes the following input drivers:

Driver Name	Description	Further Information
evdev(*)	Linux kernel EvDev	evdev(4) [evdev.4.html]
joystick	Joystick	joystick(4) [joystick.4.html]
kbd	generic keyboards (non- evdev systems)	kbd(4) [kbd.4.html]
mouse	most mouse devices (non- evdev systems)	mousedrv(4) [mousedrv.4.html]
synaptics	Synaptics & ALP touchpads	synaptics(4) [synaptics.4.html]
vmmouse	VMWare virtual mouse	vmmouse(4) [vmmouse.4.html]
void	dummy device	void(4) [void.4.html]

Drivers marked with (*) are available for Linux only.

Xorg server

Loader and Modules

The Xorg server relies on the operating system's native module loader support for handling program modules. The X server makes use of modules for video drivers, X server extensions, input device drivers, framebuffer layers, and internal components used by some drivers (like XAA & EXA).

The module interfaces (both API and ABI) used in this release are subject to change without notice. While we will attempt to provide backward compatibility for the module interfaces in stable releases, we cannot guarantee this. Compatibility in the other direction is explicitly not guaranteed because new modules may rely on interfaces added in new releases, nor is compatibility across stable release branches (such as between Xorg 1.11 and 1.12).

Note about module security

The Xorg server runs with root privileges, so the Xorg server loadable modules also run with these privileges. For this reason we recommend that all users be careful to only use loadable modules from reliable sources, otherwise the introduction of malware and contaminated code can occur and wreak havoc on your system.

Configuration File

The Xorg server uses a configuration file as the primary mechanism for providing configuration and run-time parameters. The configuration file format is described in detail in the xorg.conf(5) [xorg.conf.5.html] manual page.

Note that this release features significant improvements for running the server without a configuration file, so many users may find that that they don't need

a configuration file, or may rely on just snippets of configuration placed in the xorg.conf.d directory.

If you do need to customize the configuration file, see the xorg.conf manual page [xorg.conf.5.html] . You can also check the driver-specific manual pages and the related documentation (found at driver tables) also.

The recommended method for generating a configuration file is to use the Xorg server itself. Run as root:

Xorg -configure

and follow the instructions.

Command Line Options

Command line options can be used to override some default parameters and parameters provided in the configuration file. Command line options available for use with all X servers in this release are described in the Xserver(1) [Xserver.1.html] manual page. Command line options specific to the Xorg server are described in the Xorg(1) [Xorg.1.html] manual page.

Multi-head

Some multi-head configurations are supported in X11R7.7. Support for multiple PCI/AGP cards may require a kernel with changes to support VGA arbitration.

One of the main problems is with drivers not sufficiently initializing cards that were not initialized at boot time. This has been improved somewhat with the INT10 support that is used by most drivers (which allows secondary card to be "soft-booted", but in some cases there are other issues that still need to be resolved. Some combinations can be made to work better by changing which card is the primary card (either by using a different PCI slot, or by changing the system BIOS's preference for the primary card).

Xinerama

Xinerama is an X server extension that allows multiple physical screens connected to multiple video devices to behave as a single screen. With traditional multi-head in X11, windows cannot span or cross physical screens. Xinerama removes this limitation. Xinerama does, however, require that the physical screens all have the same root depth, so it isn't possible, for example, to use an 8-bit screen together with a 16-bit screen in Xinerama mode.

Xinerama is not enabled by default, and can be enabled with the +xinerama command line option for the X server. Note that enabling Xinerama may disable certain other extensions which are not compatible with Xinerama.

DDC

The VESA® Display Data Channel (DDC $^{\text{\tiny TM}}$) standard allows the monitor to tell the video card (or in some cases the computer directly) about itself; particularly the supported screen resolutions and refresh rates.

Partial or complete DDC support is available in most of the video drivers. DDC is enabled by default, but can be disabled with a "Device" section entry: Option "NoDDC". We have support for DDC versions 1 and 2; these can be disabled independently with Option "NoDDC1" and Option "NoDDC2".

At startup the server prints out DDC information from the display, and can use this information to set the default monitor parameters, or to warn about monitor sync limits if those provided in the configuration file don't match those that are detected.

Changed behavior caused by DDC.

Several drivers use DDC information to set the screen size and pitch. This can be overridden by explicitly resetting it to the and non-DDC default value 75 with the -dpi 75 command line option for the X server, or by specifying appropriate screen dimensions with the "DisplaySize" keyword in the "Monitor" section of the config file.

GLX and the Direct Rendering Infrastructure (DRI)

Direct rendered OpenGL® support is provided for several hardware platforms by the Direct Rendering Infrastructure (DRI). Further information about DRI can be found at the DRI Project's web site [http://dri.sf.net/]. The 3D core rendering component is provided by Mesa [http://www.mesa3d.org].

Of note is that this release supports building the X server using the system-wide libdrm. Previously, drm was kept in the server's tree and loaded as a module, rather than using the standard OS mechanisms for managing shared libraries of code. This requires that the server be built using a version of libdrm of 2.3.0 or newer if it is to use DRM.

Terminate Server keystroke

The Xorg server has previously allowed users to exit the server by pressing the keys **Control** + **Alt** + **Backspace**. While this function is still enabled by default in this release, the keymap data usually used with Xorg, from the xkeyboard-config project, has been modified to not map that sequence by default, in order to reduce the chance that inexperienced users will accidentally destroy their work.

Users who wish to have this functionality available by default may enable it via the XKB configuration option "terminate:ctrl_alt_bksp". For instance, the **setxkbmap** command can be used to enable this by running:

```
setxkbmap -option "terminate:ctrl_alt_bksp"
```

The XKB Configuration Guide also includes an example xorg.conf.d file that sets the "terminate:ctrl_alt_bksp" option by default on all keyboards. Many desktop environments include XKB configuration options in their preferences to enable this as well.

Grab debugging keystrokes

The Xorg server in this release provides various functions that can be mapped to keystrokes to aid in the debugging of programs with errant input grabs.

The keysyms XF86LogGrabInfo and XF86LogWindowTree are defined to print information to the Xorg log file on the current set of input grabs, and the window tree of the current display. By default, these are available for use, but not mapped to any key.

The keysym XF86Ungrab forces the X server to release all active grabs, which may leave the clients holding them in an inconsistent state. XF86ClearGrab goes further, killing the client connection of any client holding an active grab when it is pressed. These keystrokes are intended to allow developers to debug clients which are not properly releasing grabs or have problems occur while input is grabbed. Since grabs are a fundamental part of the X client security model, these keystrokes come with risks, such as the ability to bypass or kill screen locks without knowing the password, and thus are not available by default.

Users who are willing to accept the security risk and wish to enable this functionality may do so via the XKB configuration option "grab:break_actions".

Security issue in older xkeyboard-config releases

The xkeyboard-config data files included in this release have the grab disabling keys correctly disabled by default, but versions before xkeyboard-config 2.5 had them enabled, leading to the security risk described above. When upgrading to the X server in this release be sure to also ensure xkeyboard-config is a safe version. More details about this issue may be found in advisories for CVE-2012-0064 [http://who-t.blogspot.com/2012/01/xkb-breaking-grabs-cve-2012-0064.html].

X Server startup state

The X servers in the X11R7.7 release now start by default with an empty black screen and do not draw the mouse cursor until a client sets the cursor image. To restore the classic behavior of starting with the grey weave pattern and \times cursor, start the X server with the -retro option.

Font support

Details about the font support in X11R7.7 can be found in the "Fonts in X11R7.7" document.

Default font installation directory

Previous versions of X installed font files under the lib/X11/fonts subdirectory of the X installation directory (for instance, in X11R6 releases, /usr/X11R6/lib/X11/fonts was commonly used). This release uses the default installation path of the fonts subdirectory of the datadir setting from the GNU autoconf configuration. For instance, if the fonts are configured with ./configure --prefix=/usr, they will be installed under subdirectories of /usr/share/fonts/X11. The font module configure scripts all take an option of --with-fontrootdir=PATH to override the default. If --with-fontrootdir is not specified, the fontutil pkg-config file will be consulted to find the fontrootdir specified when the fontutil module was installed.

Bitmap font compression methods

The X11R7.7 release supports PCF format bitmap fonts stored uncompressed or compressed via the **compress**, **gzip**, or **bzip2** programs. To utilize bzip2 compression, the libxfont and **mkfontscale** modules must be built with the --with-bzip2 — all other methods are enabled by default.

To specify which compression method to use when installing a font module from X11R7.7 the configure scripts accept an option of --with-compression=TYPE, where TYPE may be none, compress, gzip, or bzip2.

Type1 Font support

Previous versions of X came with two Postscript Type1 font backends. The functionality from the "Type1" backend has been replaced by the Type1 support in the "FreeType" backend.

CID Font support

The CID-keyed font format was designed by Adobe Systems for fonts with large character sets. The CID-keyed format is obsolete, as it has been superseded by other formats such as OpenType/CFF and support for CID-keyed fonts has been removed from X11.

Build changes and issues

Strict compilation flags

Most of the modules in this release use stricter compiler flags when building with the GNU gcc, LLVM clang, Oracle Solaris Studio, or Intel compilers. These flags both enable more warnings, and promote some warnings to fatal errors in the build. If these flags cause your build to fail, you can disable the flags that turn these selected warnings into errors by adding --disable-selective-werror to the configure command for the affected module. If that is necessary for any X.Org modules, please report a bug in the xorg product on https://bugs.freedesktop.org/.

Builders seeking even stricter compiler checks can instead pass --enable-strict-compilation to the configure command to make all warnings become errors.

Silent build rules

Most of the modules in this release use the AM_SILENT_RULES option of GNU automake 1.11. When building the software, most output will show an abbreviated format for the commands being run, such as:

CC xmen.o

To enable verbose output, showing all the arguments to the commands being run, add the flag V=1 to the **make** command line or add the flag --disable-silent-rules to the configure command.

New configure options for font modules

The bitmap font modules now accept a configure option of --disable-all-encodings to set the default for all encodings to off, requiring builders to then pass --enable-<encoding> flags for each encoding to be built.

New configure options for documentation in modules

As many more modules now contain documentation to be converted from DocBook XML to text, HTML, PostScript, and/or PDF formats, new standard options have been added to the configure macros to control the build of these in the modules.

with-xmlto=yes/no	Enables or disables use of the xmlto [https://fedorahosted.org/xmlto/] command to translate Doc-Book XML to other formats. All DocBook XML conversions require use of this command.
with-fop=yes/no	Enables or disables use of the Apache fop [http://xmlgraphics.apache.org/fop/] command to translate DocBook XML to PostScript and PDF formats.
enable-docs=yes/no	Enables or disables the build and installation of all documentation except traditional man pages or those covered by theenable-devel-docs andenable-specs options.
enable-devel-docs=yes/no	Enables or disables the build and installation of documentation for developers of the X.Org software modules.
enable-specs=yes/no	Enables or disables the build and installation of the formal specification documents for protocols and APIs.

Miscellaneous

This section describes other items of note for the X11R7.7 release.

Socket directory ownership and permissions

The socket directories created in /tmp are now required to be owned by root and have their sticky-bit set. If the permissions are not set correctly, the component using this directory will print an error message and fail to start. Common socket directories that are known to be affected include:

```
/tmp/.font-unix
/tmp/.ICE-unix
/tmp/.X11-unix
```

These directories are used by the font server (**xfs**), applications using the Inter-Client Exchange protocol (ICE) and the X server, respectively.

There are several solutions to the problem of when to create these directories. They could be created at install time by the system's installer if the / tmp dir is persistent. They could be created at boot time by the system's boot scripts (e.g., the init.d scripts). Or, they could be created by PAM modules at service startup or user login time.

The solution chosen is platform dependent, and the system administrator should be able to handle creating those directories on any systems that do not have the correct ownership or permissions.

Deprecated components and removal plans

This section lists current plans for removal of obsolete or deprecated components in the X.Org releases. As our releases are open source, users who continue to require these can find the source in previous releases and continue to use these, but the X.Org Foundation and its volunteers have decided the burden of continued maintenance and distribution in the core X11 releases outweighs the benefits of doing so. In some cases, this is simply because no one has volunteered to do continued maintenance, so if software is listed here that you need, you can contact <xorg-devel@lists.x.org> to volunteer to take over maintainership, either inside or outside of the Xorg release process.

Future Removals

DGA version 2

DGA 2.0 is included in 7.7. Documentation for the client libraries can be found in the XDGA(3) [XDGA.3.man] man page. DGA should be considered deprecated; if you are relying on it, please let us know what you need it for so we can find better solutions. In this release, support has been removed for all DGA rendering and mapping code, leaving just mode setting and raw input device access.

Input device discovery via HAL

Xorg server 1.4 started using the HAL framework [http://www.freedesktop.org/wiki/Software/hal] to discover connected input devices, receive notification of hotplug events for them, and to retrieve configuration parameters for them. The HAL maintainers have since deprecated HAL, so the X.Org developers have begun replacement with alternatives. As a result, configuration of input devices via HAL * .fdi files is no longer supported on Linux platforms using udev, and may not be supported on other platforms in future Xorg server releases.

Nested and virtual X servers

As described in the section called "Overview of X11R7.7", this release contains multiple X servers that either display onto another X server, or render into a virtual memory framebuffer. These may be replaced in a future release by drivers for the Xorg server which perform the same tasks.

Removed in this Release

Unmaintained drivers

This release no longer contains the following drivers, due to lack of maintainers with relevant hardware. Existing driver versions may work with current Xorg servers, but they are not being actively updated to support Xorg driver API & ABI changes.

• xf86-input-acecad: Acecad Flair

• xf86-input-aiptek: Aiptek USB tablet

• xf86-video-apm: Alliance Pro Motion

• xf86-video-chips: Chips & Technologies

• xf86-video-i740: Intel i740

• xf86-video-rendition: Rendition Verite

• xf86-video-s3: S3 (not ViRGE or Savage)

• xf86-video-s3virge: S3 ViRGE

xf86-video-sisusb: SiS Net2280-based USB

• xf86-video-suncg14: Sun CG14

• xf86-video-suncg3: Sun CG3

• xf86-video-sunleo: Sun Leo (ZX)

• xf86-video-suntcx: Sun TCX

xf86-video-tseng: Tseng Labs

• xf86-video-xgi: XGI

• xf86-video-xgixp: XGI Volari 8300

Attributions/Acknowledgements/Credits

This section lists the credits for the X11R7.7 release. For a more detailed breakdown, refer to the ChangeLog file in the source tree for each module, the history in the xorg product in freedesktop.org's git repositories [http://cgit.freedesktop.org/xorg/] or the 'git log' information for individual source files.

The X Window System has been a collaborative effort from its inception. Our apologies for anyone or organization inadvertently overlooked. Many individuals (including major contributors) who worked on X are represented by their employers in this list. If you feel we have left anyone out, please let us know.

These people contributed in some way to X11R7.7 since the release of X11R7.6:

Aapo Rantalainen Aaron Culich Lev Nezhdanov Linus Arver Aaron Plattner

Abdoulaye Walsimou Gaye

Adam Jackson Adam Tkac Adrian Bunk Alan Coopersmit

Alan Coopersmith Alan Curry Alan Hourihane Alban Browaeys Albert Damen Aldis Berjoza Alessandro Guido Alex Deucher Alex Plotnick Alexander Polakov Alexandr Shadchin Alexandre Julliard

Alexey Shumitsky Alistair Leslie-Hughes Ander Conselvan de Oliveira

Andrea Canciani Andreas Schwab

Andreas Wettstein Andrew Randrianasulu

Andrew Turner Andy Furniss Anssi Hannula Antoine Martin Arkadiusz Miśkiewicz

Armin K

Arnaud Fontaine Arthur Taylor Arvind Umrao Avram Lyon

Bartosz Brachaczek Bartosz Kosiorek

Bastian Blank

Bastien Nocera Ben Hutchings Benjamin Close

Benjamin Herrenschmidt

Benjamin Herrenson Benjamin Otte Benjamin Tissoires Bernie Innocenti Bill Nottingham Bjørn Mork Bodo Graumann Bryce Harrington Carl Worth Carlos Garnacho Casper Dik

Cédric Cano

Chad Versace

Chase Douglas

Luc Verhaegen

Maarten Lankhorst Maarten Maathuis

Macpaul Lin Magnus Kessler Marcin Kościelnicki

Marcin Slusarz Marcin Woliński Marek Olšák Mario Kleiner

Mark Dokter Mark Kettenis Mark Schreiber Marko Macek

Marko Myllynen Markus Duft Markus Fleschutz Mart Raudsepp Martin Langhoff

Martin-Éric Racine

Marton Balint Matěj Cepl Mathias Krause Mathieu Bérard

Mathieu Taillefumier

Matt Dew
Matt Turner
Matthew D. Fuller
matthew green
Matthias Clasen
Matthias Hopf
Matthieu Herrb
Matti Hamalainen
Max Schwarz
Maxim Iorsh

Mehdi Dogguy

meng

Michael Chang Michael Larabel Michael Olbrich Michael Stapelberg Michael Thayer Michał Górny Michal Marek Michał Masłowski Michal Suchanek Michel Dänzer Michel Hummel Mikael Magnusson Mike Frysinger Mike Stroyan Mikhail Gusarov Modestas Vainius

Mohammed Sameer

Choe Hwanjin Chris Bagwell Chris Ball

Chris Halse Rogers
Chris Wilson
Christian König
Christian Toutant
Christian Weisgerber
Christoph Brill
Christoph Reimann
Christophe Roland

Christopher James Halse Rogers

Christopher Yeleighton
Clemens Eisserer
Colin Harrison
Cristian Rodríguez
Cyril Brulebois
Daiki Ueno
Dan Horák
Dan Nicholson
Daniel A. Steffen
Daniel Drake
Daniel Kurtz
Daniel Stone

Dave Airlie
David Barksdale
David Coles
David Coppa
David Fries
David Ge
David Nusinow
David Reveman

David Ronis

Daniel Vetter

Denis 'GNUtoo' Carikli Derek Buitenhuis Derek Foreman Derek Wang Devin J. Pohly Diego Elio Pettenò Dirk Wallenstein

dtakahashi42 Eamon Walsh Ed Schouten

Edward Sheldrake

Egbert Eich Eitan Adler Elias Probst Elie Bleton

Elvis Pranskevichus Emanuele Giaquinta Eoghan Sherry Eric Anholt Erik Kilfoil Nick Bowler Nicolai Stange Nicolas Cavallari Nicolas Ioly Nicolas Kaiser Nicolas Kalkhof Nicolas Peninguy Nikolai Kondrashov Nils Wallménius Nithin Navak Sujir Nobuhiro Iwamatsu Olaf Buddenhagen Oldřich Jedlička Oleh Nykyforchyn Oliver McFadden Oliver Schmidt Olivier Fourdan Olli Vertanen Ondrej Zary Owen Taylor Pander Pär Lidberg Parag Nemade Patrick Curran Patrick E. Kane Paul Fox

Paul Menzel
Paul Neumann
Pauli Nieminen
Paulius Zaleckas
Paulo Zanoni
Pelle Johansson
Pete Beardmore
Peter Clifton
Peter Harris
Peter Hutterer
Peter Korsgaard
Peter Zotov
Philip Langdale
Philip Reh
Phillp Haddad

Pierre-Loup A. Griffais

Priit Laes

Promathesh Mandal

Rami Ylimäki Reinhard Karcher Rémi Cardona Richard Hartmann

Rob Clark Robert Ancell Robert Bragg Robert Hooker Robert Morell Roberto Branciforti Erik Saule Erkki Seppälä Eugeni Dodonov Evan Broder Fabio Pedretti

Federico Mena Quintero Fernando Carrijo Ferry Huberts Francisco Jerez Frank Huang Frank Mariak Frédéric Boiteux

Fryderyk Dziarmagowski

Gaetan Nadon George Staplin Giuseppe Bilotta Glenn Burkhardt Guillem Jover György Balló Hans Verkuil

Fredrik Höglund

Hans-Juergen Mauser

Hans-Peter Budek Harshula Jayasuriya

Havoc Pennington Henry Zhao Ian Osgood Ian Romanick Ilija Hadzic

Ivan Bulatovic Jakob Bornecrantz

James Cloos James Jones James Simmons Jamey Sharp Jamie Kennea Jan Hauffa Jan Kriho

Janne Huttunen Jari Aalto Javier Acosta Javier Jardón

Javier Pello Jay Cotton Jeetu Golani Jeff Chua Jens Elkner

Jeremy Huddleston
Jerome Carretero
Jerome Glisse
Jesse Adkins
Jesse Barnes
Jian Zhao
JJ Ding

Roger Cruz Roland Cassard Roland Scheidegger Roman Jarosz

Ross Burton
Rui Matos
Ryan Pavlik
Sam Spilsbury
Samuel Thibault
Sascha Hlusiak
Satoshi KImura
Scott James Remnant

Sebastian Glita Sedat Dilek Sergey Samokhin Sergey V. Udaltsov Servaas Vandenberghe Siddhesh Poyarekar

Simon Farnsworth Simon Que Simon Thum Sitsofe Wheeler

Søren Sandmann Pedersen

Stefan Dirsch Stefan Glasenhardt

Stefan Kost Stefan Potyra Stephan Hilb Stephane Marchesin

Stephen Turnbull Stuart Kreitman Takashi Iwai Terry Lambert Thierry Vignaud Thomas Bächler Thomas Fjellstrom Thomas Hellström Thomas Hoger Thordur Bjornsson Tiago Vignatti Till Matthiesen Tim van der Molen

Tim Yamin Timo Aaltonen Tobias Droste Tollef Fog Heen Tom "spot" Callaway

Tom Fogal Tomas Carnecky Tomas Frydrych Tomas Hoger Tomáš Trnka Toralf Förster Tormod Volden

Trevor Woerner

Joe Shaw
Joerg Sonnenberger
Johannes Obermayr
John Martin
Jon Nettleton

U. Artie Eoff
Uli Schlachter
Ulrich Müller
Van de Bugger
Vasily Khoruzhick

Vasyl V. Vercynskyj Jon TURNEY **Jools Wills** Victor Machado Jordan Hayes Ville Skyttä Ville Syrjälä Jörn Horstmann Josh Triplett Vincent Torri Julien Cristau Walter Bender **Julien Danjou** Walter Harms **Justin Dou** William Jon McCann

Justin MattockXavier BachelotKai-Uwe BehrmannXiang, HaihaoKees CookXue WeiKeith PackardXunx FangKenneth GraunkeY.C. Chen

Kent Baxley Yaakov Selkowitz
Kirill Elagin Yann Droneaud
Knut Petersen Yannick Heneault

Konstantin Belousov Zack Rusin
Kristian Høgsberg Zhao Yakui
Kristof Szabo Zhenyu Wang
Krzysztof Halasa Zhigang Gong
Kusanagi Kouichi Zou Nan hai

Lennart Poettering

Joe Nahmias

and the members of the Translation Project [http://translationproject.org/].

This product includes software developed by:

2d3d Inc.Kevin E. Martin3Dlabs Inc. Ltd.Kim woeldersAaron PlattnerKristian Høgsberg

Adam de Boor Larry Wall Adam Jackson Lars Knoll

Adobe Systems Inc. Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory

Advanced Micro Devices, Inc. Leif Delgass

After X-TT Project Lennart Augustsson

AGE Logic Inc. Leon Shiman

Alan Coopersmith Lexmark International Inc.

Alan Cox

Alan Hourihane

Alexander Gottwald

Alex Deucher

Linux Torvalds

Linuxcare Inc.

Lorens Younes

Luc Verhaegen

Alex Williamson Machine Vision Holdings Inc.

Alexei Gilchrist Mandriva Linux
Anders Carlsson Manfred Brands
Andreas Luik Manish Singh

Andreas Monitzer Marc Aurele La France

Andreas Robinson Mark Adler
Andrei Barbu Mark J. Kilgard
Andrew C Aitchison Mark Kettenis

Andrey A. Chernov
Andy Ritger
Angus Lees
Ani Joshi
Anton Zioviev

Mark Leisher
Mark Smulders
Mark Vojkovich
Martin Husemann
Marvin Solomon

Apollo Computer Inc. Massachusetts Inst. Of Technology

Apple Computer Inc. Matrox Graphics

Apple Inc. Matt Dew

Ares Software Corp.

Arnaud LE HORS

Arne Schwabe

ASPEED Technology Inc.

AT&T Inc.

ATI Technologies Inc.

Bart Massey

Matthias Hopf

Matthias Ihmig

Matthieu Herrb

Metro Link Inc.

Michal Rehacek

Michael Bax

Bart Trojanowski, Symbio Technologies, Michael H. Schimek

LLC

BEAM Ltd. Michael P. Marking
Benjamin Herrenschmidt Michael Schimek
Benjamin Rienfenstahl Michael Smith
Ben Skeggs Michael Dänzer
Beth Morduther The Stripe Institute Miles A. Harris

Beth Mardutho: The Syriac Institute Mike A. Harris
Bigelow and Holmes Mike Harris

Dill Born alda.

Bill Reynolds Ming Yu

Bitstream Inc.

Bogdan Diaconescu

Branden Robinson

Brian Fundakowski Feldman

MIPS Computer Systems Inc.

MontaVista Software Inc.

National Security Agency

National Semiconductor

Brian Goines NCR Corporation Inc.
Bogdan D. Neil Brown

Brian Paul NetBSD Foundation

Bruce Kalk Netscape Communications Corp.
Bruno Haible Network Computing Devices Inc.
Bryan Stine New Mexico State University

Bryan W. Headley.
C. Scott Ananian
Carl Switzky
Catharon Productions Inc.
Charles Murcko
Nicholas Mourms
Nicholas Wourms
Nicolai Haehnle
Noah Levitt

Charles Murcko
Chen Xiangyang
Nolan Leake
Chisato Yamauchi
Nokia Corporation

Chris Constello Nokia Home Communications

Chris Salch Novell Inc.
Christian Thaeter Nozomi YTOW

Christian Zietz

Cognition Corp.

Compaq Computer Corporation

Number Nine Computer Corp.

Number Nine Visual Technologies

Concurrent Computer Corporation NVIDIA Corporation

Conectiva S.A. Oivier Danet

Corin Anderson Oki Technosystems Laboratory Inc.

Corvin Zahn.

Cronyx Ltd.

Craig Struble

Daewoo Electronics Co. Ltd.

Olivetti Research Limited
OMRON Corporation
Open Software Foundation
Open Text Corporation

Dag-Erling Smørgrav
Dale Schumacher
Damien Miller
Daniel Berrange
Daniel Borca
Daniel Stone
Daniver Limited
Daryll Strauss

Data General Corporation

Dave Airlie
David Bateman
David Dawes
David E. Wexelblat
David Holland
David J. McKay
David McCullough
David Mosberger-Tang

David Mosberger-David Reveman David S. Miller David Woodhouse Davor Matic Deron Johnson Digeo Inc.

Dennis De Winter

Digital Equipment Corporation

Dirk Hohndel Dmitry Golubev Donnie Berkholz

DOS-EMU-Development-Team

Doug Anson Drew Parsons

Earle F. Philhower III Edouard TISSERANT

Eduard Fuchs Eduardo Horvath Egbert Eich Egmont Koblinger

Elliot Lee
Eric Anholt
Eric Fortune
Eric Sunshine
Erik Fortune
Erik Nygren

Evans & Sutherland Computer Corp.

Fabio Massimo Di Nitto Fabrizio Gennari Fedor P. Goncharov Felix Kühling Finn Thoegersen

Francesco Zappa Nardelli

Frank C. Earl Florian Loitsch Francisco Jerez

Fred Hucht

OpenedHand Ltd. Oracle Corp. Orest Zborowski Owen Taylor Pablo Saratxaga Panacea Inc.

Panagiotis Tsirigotis
Paolo Severini
Pascal Haible
Patrick Lecoanet
Patrick Lerda
Paul Anderson
Paul Elliott
Paul Mackerras
Peter Breitenlohner
Peter Hutterer
Peter Kunzmann

Peter Osterlund Peter Trattler Phil Karlton Philip Blundell Philip Homburg Philip Langdale Precision Insight Inc.

Prentice Hall

Quarterdeck Office Systems

Radek Doulik
Ralf Habacker
Randy Hendry
Ranier Keller
Red Hat Inc.
Regis Cridlig
Rene Cougnenc
Richard A. Hecker
Richard Burdick
Rich Murphey
Rickard E. Faith

Rik Faith
Robert Chesler
Robert Millan
Robert V. Baron
Robert W. Scheifler
Robin Cutshaw
Roland Mainz
Roland Scheidegger

Roland Scheldegg Ronny Vindenes Russ Blaine Ryan Breen Ryan Lortie Ryan Underwood

S. Lehner

S3 Graphics Inc. Sam Leffler

Santa Cruz Operation Inc.

Frederic Lepied Fredrik Höglund

Free Software Foundation

Fujitsu Limited

Fujitsu Open Systems Solutions Inc.

Fuji Xerox Co. Ltd.
Gaetan Nadon
Gareth Hughes
Geert Uytterhoeven
George Fufutos
George Sapountzis

Gerrit Jan Akkerman Gerry Toll Ghozlane Toumi Glenn G. Lai

GNOME Foundation

Go Watanabe

Google Summer of Code participants

Greg Kroah-Hartman
Gregory Mokhin
Greg Parker
GROUPE BULL
Guillem Jover
Guy Martin
Hans Oey
Harald Koenig
Harm Hanemaayer
Harold L Hunt II
Harry Langenbacher
Hartwig Felger
Henry A. Worth

Hewlett-Packard Company

Hideki Hiura Hitachi Ltd. Holger Veit Hong Bo Peng Howard Greenwell

Henry Davies

Hummingbird Communications Ltd.

Ian Romanick IBM Corporation

Inst. of Software Academia Sinica

Intel Corporation

INTERACTIVE Systems Corporation

Itai Nahshon
Itronix Inc.
Ivan Kokshaysky
Ivan Pascal
Jakub Jelinek
James Tsillas
Jamey Sharp
Jason Bacon
Jaymz Julian
Jean-loup Gailly

Sascha Hlusiak. SciTech Software

Scott Laird

Sebastien Marineau Serge Winitzki Sergey Vovk Shigehiro Nomura ShoGraphics Inc. Shunsuke Akiyama

Silicon Graphics Computer Systems

Silicon Graphics, Inc.

Silicon Integrated Systems Corp

Silicon Motion Inc. Simon P. Cooper Simon Thum

Snitily Graphics Consulting Services

Sony Corporation Søren Sandmann

SRI

Stanislav Brabec Stefan Bethge Stefan Dirsch Stefan Gmeiner Stephane Marchesin Stephan Lang Steven Lang Stuart Kreitman

Sun Microsystems Inc. SunSoft Inc. SuSE Inc Sven Luther

Takis Psarogiannakopoulos

Takuma Murakami Takuya SHIOZAKI T. A. Phelps Tektronix Inc. Theo de Raadt Theodore Ts'o The Open Group

The Unichrome Project The Weather Channel Inc.

Thomas E. Dickey
Thomas G. Lane
Thomas Hellström
Thomas Mueller
Thomas Roell
Thomas Thanner
Thomas Winischhofer
Thomas Wolfram
Thorsten.Ohl
Tiago Gons

Tilman Sauerbeck Todd C. Miller Tomohiro KUBOTA Jeff HartmannTorrey LyonsJeff KirkTorrey T. LyonsJeffrey HsuTOSHIBA Corp.Jehan BingToshimitsu Tanaka

Jeremy C. ReedTravis TilleyJeremy KatzTrolltech ASJeremy HuddlestonTroy D. Hanson

Jerome Glisse Tungsten Graphics Inc.

Jesse Barnes Tuomas J. Lukka

Jim Gettys Ty Sarna

Jim Tsillas UCHIYAMA Yasushi

Joerg Sonnenberger Unicode Inc.

John DennisUniSoft Group LimitedJohn HarperUniversity of CaliforniaJohn HeasleyUniversity of South Australia

Jonathan Adamczewski University of Utah
Jon Block University of Wisconsin

Jon Smirl UNIX System Laboratories Inc.

Jon TombsURW++ GmbHJörg BösnerValery InozemtsevJorge DelgadoVA Linux SystemsJosé FonsecaVIA Technologies Inc.

Josh Triplett Video Electronics Standard Assoc.

Joseph Friedman

Joseph P. Skudlarek

Joseph V. Moss

Julio M. Merino Vidal

Video Electronics Star VMware Inc.

Vrije Universiteit

Wittawat Yamwong

Wyse Technology Inc.

Juan Romero Pardines X Consortium

Juliusz ChroboczekXFree86 Project Inc.Jyunji TakagiXi Graphics Inc.Kaleb KeithleyX-Oz Technologies

Kazushi (Jam) Marukawa X-TrueType Server Project

Kazuyuki (ikko-) Okamoto X.Org Foundation Kazutaka YOKOTA XGI Technology

Kean Johnston Yu Shao
Keith Packard Zack Rusin
Keith Whitwell Zephaniah E. Hull
Kensuke Matsuzaki Zhenyu Wang

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