

Re: X in sarge can't display Chinese

Source: <http://linux.derkeiler.com/Mailing-Lists/Debian/2006-02/msg01188.html>

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 - *Date:* Fri, 10 Feb 2006 19:58:31 +0100
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Serena Cantor wrote:

I have just installed sarge, but mozilla can't display Chinese. I select "Preference" menu, to config font for Chinese, only can see "serif" and "Sans serif" after setting Chinese, though I have installed xfonts-intl-chinese. below is output by xlsfonts: [..]

Fonts, and especially the way fonts are selected for use by Debian applications, are a black art.

If you want Chinese display in Mozilla, xfonts-intl-chinese will not help (these 'xfonts' usually are bitmap fonts, which are hardly used by any application nowadays). You need ttf fonts, like the Debian package ttf-arphic-bsmi00lp (use "apt-cache show arphic" for more possibilities). After you've done this, the mozilla font menu will show something like "arphic" when you choose Chinese. But usually Mozilla will use the Chinese font automatically when it encounters a Chinese web page (using the fontconfig mechanism).

Some people on the Debian list said something about canna; this is nonsense, canna has nothing to do with fonts. It is a keyboard input system -- for Japanese. If you are interested in Chinese keyboard input, look at scim or uim.

About locales: it is best to switch your system to a UTF-8 locale, which is easy, but which is unfortunately not done in Debian by default. With any kind of UTF-8 locale, you can view, edit, type, and print documents and web pages in any language in the world -- including, of course, Chinese -- while keeping your Debian/Linux user environment intact (i.e. texts in menus, etc., can remain in the language that you are used to).

I put everything I could find out about Debian internationalisation on my web page, <http://www.jw-stumpel.nl/stestu.html>. Maybe it will give you some hints. Well, I use Sid. Possibly not everything works in Sarge.

Regards, Jan

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