

Re: can I define a default printer in firefox? how? [solved (maybe)]

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Source: <http://linux.derkeiler.com/Mailing-Lists/Debian/2006-02/msg02979.html>

- *From:* Paul E Condon <pecondon@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Sat, 25 Feb 2006 14:59:05 -0700
-

On Sat, Feb 25, 2006 at 04:06:37PM -0500, Patrick Wiseman wrote:

On 2/25/06, Andrew Sackville-West <andrew@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

On Sat, 25 Feb 2006 13:02:09 -0700
Paul E Condon <pecondon@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

On Sat, Feb 25, 2006 at 02:26:50PM -0500, Gene Heskett
wrote:

On Saturday 25 February 2006 14:07,
Florian Kulzer wrote:

Paul E Condon wrote:

Thanks.
This really a
good lead,
but its not
working.
See below.

[...]

The
mozilla-xprint
behavior
is
mostly
controlled
by
the
settings
in

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/etc/Xprint/C/print/Xprinters.

On my machine the above named file exists and contains the lines referred to below. But it also contains the following comments:

```
<quote>
#
X*printers
sample
configuration
file
#
#
# This file
belongs in
/usr/lib/X11/X*printers,
where the
"*" is
```

the

```
# display
number of
the server.
For
example, if
the server is
# invoked
using the
command X
:0, then the
X0printers
file is used.
```

#####

```
####
</quote>
```

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When I
make
changes to
this file and
restart my X
system, I
see no
change in
behavior.
Perhaps I
need to
make a
copy per
this
comment.
But this
seems to me
to violate
Debian
policy, so I
wonder if
there
is not
something
else that
should be
done
instead.

Just to make sure what you
mean by "restarting your X
system": You
have to explicitly restart
"xprint" for the changes to
have an
effect. (I don't think xprint is
restarted automatically
when you
restart the X server; at least
during bootup and shutdown
it seems

to

be a separate item.)

Furthermore, I now realized
that my default printer just
happens to

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be

the first one when all
printers are listed
alphabetically, so maybe
achieving the desired effect
was accidental in my case.

And I'll submit that if cups and gutenprint
are properly installed and
configured it works, and does so without any
interference from xprint.

I saw it in an htop report one day, got
curious and stopped it, also
disabling its startup at boot time. That was
about a month ago and
I've yet to have anything refuse to print or
print wrongly in any way.
So I've removed one potential source of
printing mischief.

What exactly WAS it supposed to do
anyway?

Regards,
Florian

--
Cheers, Gene

Hi, Gene.

I'm the OP on this thread. My complaint is that firefox print
window
always lists five candidate printers, only two of which
actually work
and neither of these is ever the default selection. Every time I
forget to explicitly select a printer, I fail to get my printout.
I
find this an annoying waste of time.

I just removed xprint altogether and its been fine. it looks scary because
apt-get remove xprint wants to remove the meta package
x-windows-system, but
that is only a meta-package and does no damage, AFAICT.

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I too have purged xprint without ill effect, and firefox now lists only my CUPS printers, but in alphabetical order, ignoring my CUPS default.

Patrick

1. Debian does not use /usr/lib/X11/X*printers , it reads /etc/Xprint/C/Xprinters instead at boot.
2. /etc/init.d/xprint restart does NOT cause re-read of above config. file. The only way I have found to set the new config. is to reboot (ugh!)
3. Commenting out two lines in Xprinters gets rid of the two most offensive printers.
4. The remaining printers are displayed in lexical order with the first one selected. Systemwide defaults and CUPS defaults have no effect on display order or default selection in firefox. So I choose a name for my desired printer that collates before the others.
5. Notes in /usr/share/doc/xprint-common/README.Debian indicate that the Debian maintainer, Drew Parsons, is aware of this messy situation but is awaiting work by others on Linux Standard Base before implementing a fix.

IMHO its a mess, but there are a lot of other messes in this world that are worse than this one. Xprint seems to have been created to provide a platform independent method for rendering from http: directly into post-script for proper, clean printing of html. But it doesn't seem to really solve the problem of work-a-day web printing, except when all its nifty features are disabled, and if you are not too demanding about the quality of the solution.

Thanks to all who contributed. Maybe this review will get others to an end point faster than it took me. And, maybe future developments in X will obsolete these comments (soon, I hope).

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