

Re: Font display problem on Linux

Source: <http://linux.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/comp.os.linux.development.apps/2004-10/0435.html>

From: Joe Beanfish (joebeanfish_at_nospam.duh)

Date: 10/27/04

Date: Wed, 27 Oct 2004 14:09:35 -0400

On Tue, 26 Oct 2004 21:56:12 -0500, Last2Know <grokkalot@yahoo.com> wrote:

> On Tue, 26 Oct 2004 13:19:06 -0400, Joe Beanfish wrote:

>

>> On Mon, 25 Oct 2004 22:40:39 -0500, Last2Know <grokkalot@yahoo.com> wrote:

>>

>>> On Mon, 25 Oct 2004 13:46:05 -0400, Joe Beanfish wrote:

>>>

>>>> On Fri, 22 Oct 2004 19:20:36 +0100, Roger Leigh

<roger@invalid.whinlatter.uklinux.net.invalid> wrote:

>>>>

>>>>> *sk@skscii-dot-com.no-spam.invalid (skscii) writes:*

>>>>>

>>>>>> *I have developed a jbuilder application on a Windows 2000 platform*

>>>>>> *and it works and displays fine.*

>>>>>>

>>>>>>> *I created a jar file and copied it to my Linux system, and when I*

>>>>>>> *run the application, it works fine, but it doesn't display properly.*

>>>>>>>

>>>>>>>> *The fonts are too large and many of the labels are truncated.*

>>>>>>>>

>>>>>>>>> *It's probably your problem: have you hardcoded widget sizes and*

>>>>>>>>> *positions? If written properly, your interface should resize to*

>>>>>>>>> *accomodate text of any size.*

>>>>>>>>>

>>>>>>>>>> *Unfortunately, I don't think I've seen even one "properly written"*

>>>>>>>>>> *java app on the web. They all render fonts in bad to useless ways.*

>>>>>>>>>> *Including the Java admin tool for my Linux based NAS appliance.*

>>>>>>>>>>

>>>>>>>>>>> *A lot of Java GUI stuff is written in a way that doesn't look*

>>>>>>>>>>> *decent unless the fonts ultimately get mapped to truetype fonts*

>>>>>>>>>>> *or equivalent. These have to be installed specially for a*

>>>>>>>>>>> *each JVM installation, because all the good ones are proprietary*

>>>>>>>>>>> *and can't ship for free with the JVM. Or at least this was*

>>>>>>>>>>> *situation a few years ago.*

>>>>>>>>>>>

>>>>>>>>>>>> *I have lots of common true-type fonts installed including all the*

>>>>>>>>>>>> *ones that come with Windows. Doesn't help much.*

>>
>> *And for Big Brother, Yes I have the right to those Windows supplied
>> fonts. They're on the other partition with a purchased copy of Windows.*
>
> *So when a Java program running on your JVM requests, say, the
> "sans serif" font you have that mapped to something like the
> Arial truetype font, correct?*

I wasted a few hours futzing with the font properties file.
Did little good. In the odd case where I could get at least
one part of an app looking right some other part or some other
app would be worse. And it was pure trial and error to even
figure out what fonts the app might be asking for.

>> *Another fun problem is my credit card provider. They have a little
>> java thingy for getting temporary numbers. It displays all fonts
>> and widgets ok (they're probably all builtin or bitmaps). But it
>> insists on resizing the window with every operation. The size is
>> not even remotely correct. I have to keep resizing the window.
>> Java the portable programming environment. What a laugh.*
>
> *A badly behaved app can be written in any language.*

Oh so true.

> *Though overall I agree that the GUI libs are the worst
> aspect of Java.*

Yeah, basically puts Java gui programs in the class of windows apps.
Works on the developer's machine. Anywhere else is pure luck unless
they spend 6 months trying it everywhere.