



Cool, but obscure X11 tools

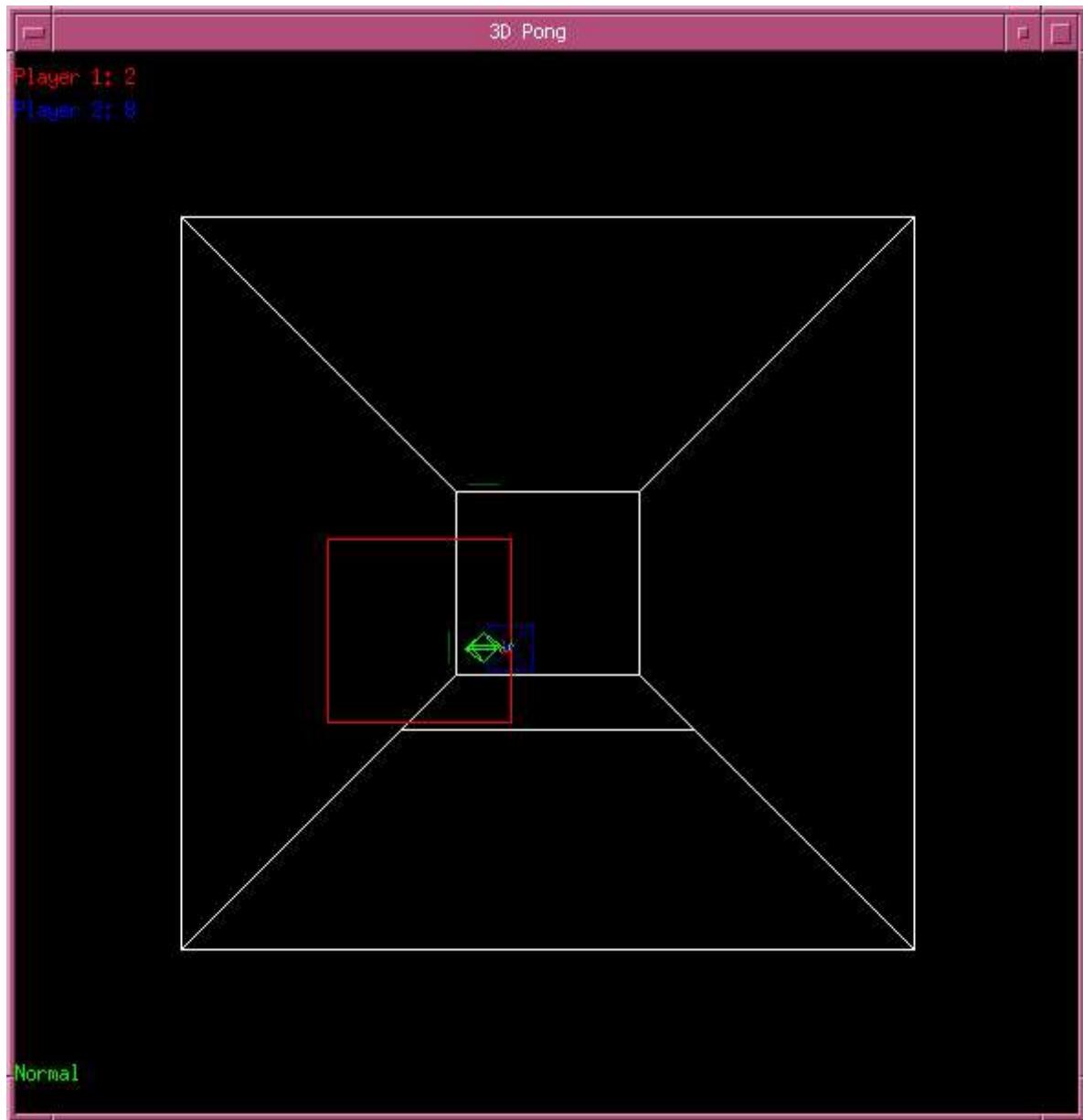
A small collection of tools for the X Window System, some more and some less obscure. For cool terminal tools, see Kristof Kovacs' [Cool, but obscure Unix tools](#). All applications have been tested on FreeBSD but should run on other Unix-like operating systems as well.

3D Pong

- [3D Pong](#)
- [Angband](#)
- [AppRes](#)
- [ASClock](#)
- [Battalion](#)
- [Free42](#)
- [FSV2](#)
- [GLXGears](#)
- [GMixer](#)
- [GVIM](#)
- [HP-15C](#)
- [Ico](#)
- [Mdifff](#)
- [MxIco](#)
- [Micropolis](#)
- [NEdit](#)
- [Plan](#)
- [Sunclock](#)
- [Ted](#)
- [TiEmu](#)
- [WMY2K](#)
- [WordNet](#)
- [X026](#)
- [X48](#)
- [XAbacus](#)
- [XAntfarm](#)
- [XArchiver](#)
- [XASCII](#)
- [XBiff](#)
- [XBill](#)
- [XBoard](#)
- [XCalc](#)
- [XCalendar](#)
- [XCHM](#)
- [XChomp](#)
- [XClipboard](#)
- [XClock](#)
- [XClock/Cat Clock](#)
- [XColorSel](#)
- [XConsole](#)
- [XCrySDen](#)
- [XDiary](#)
- [XDigger](#)

- [XEarth](#)
- [XEdit](#)
- [Xev](#)
- [XEyes](#)
- [XFishtank](#)
- [XFontSel](#)
- [XGalaga](#)
- [Xgc](#)
- [XInfocom](#)
- [XInvaders 3D](#)
- [XKill](#)
- [XLaby](#)
- [XLennart](#)
- [XLess](#)
- [XLife](#)
- [XLoad](#)
- [XLock](#)
- [XLogo](#)
- [XMahjongg](#)
- [XMan](#)
- [XMascot](#)
- [XMaxima](#)
- [XmBibTeX](#)
- [XMessage](#)
- [XmGrace](#)
- [XMH](#)
- [XMixer](#)
- [XmMix](#)
- [XMore](#)
- [XMosaic](#)
- [XMOTD](#)
- [XMountains](#)
- [XNeko](#)
- [XOdometer](#)
- [XOJ](#)
- [XOSView](#)
- [Xplore](#)
- [XPostIt](#)
- [XRroach](#)
- [XScreenSaver](#)
- [XSnow](#)
- [XSol](#)
- [XSpread](#)
- [XStarRoll](#)
- [Xtacy](#)
- [XTar](#)
- [XTerm](#)
- [XTide](#)
- [XTrojka](#)
- [Xv](#)
- [Xvkbd](#)
- [XWorld](#)
- [XWPE](#)

- [XZoom](#)



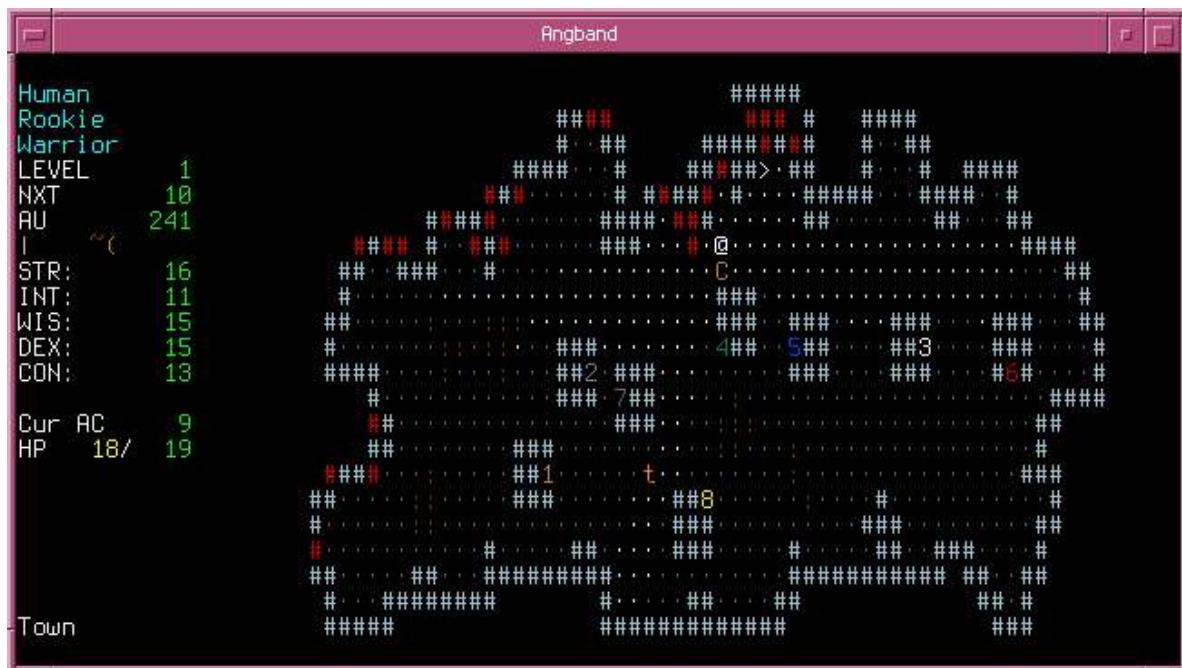
[3D Pong](#) is three-dimensional version of the first arcade game, “Pong”, for the X Window System.

```
# pkg install games/3dpong
```

To play against the computer, run:

```
$ 3dpong :0 --computer --sound
```

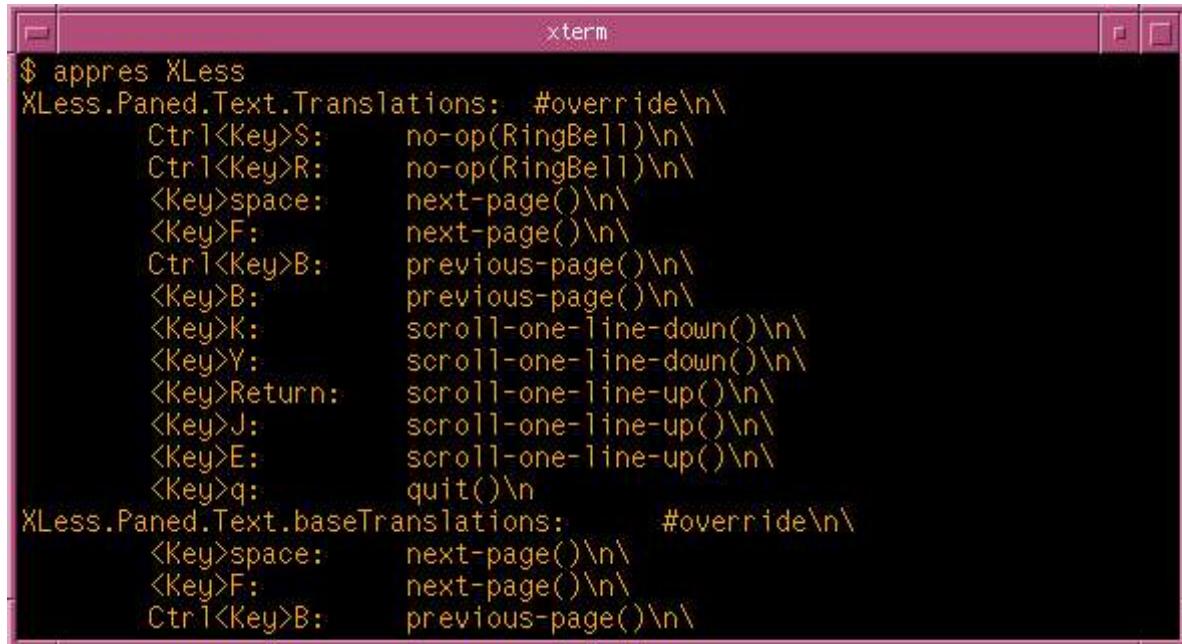
Angband



A roguelike game derived from Moria, based loosely on the books of J. R. R. Tolkien. The ultimate aim of the game is to advance in skill and strength, collecting better and more powerful magical items until you are ready to face the Master of the dungeon: Morgoth himself! Start the X11 mode with `angband -mx11`.

```
# pkg install games/angband
```

AppRes



Prints the resources seen by an application. It can be used to determine which resources a particular program will load.

```
# pkg install x11/appres
```

ASClock



AfterStep clock with some language extensions.

```
# pkg install x11-clocks/asclock
```

Battalion



Battalion is a 3D game from 1994, originally written for the Silicon Graphics Indy UNIX workstation. The player controls a monster to blow up a city. The author dedicated a [website](#) to the game.

Depending on the perspective, the controls are a little awkward. You may want to change the camera with key 1, 2, 3, or 4. Use the mouse to rotate and to move forward/backward. The arrow keys only work if the mouse cursor is placed in the center of

the screen. Shoot with the left control key or the left mouse button, and tilt the head with **A** and **Z** to target helicopters and jets. The camera can be rotated with **I**, **J**, **K**, and **L**. Alter the rendering details with **D**. Press **G** to grab the mouse cursor and **P** to pause the game.

I made a quick & dirty [FreeBSD port](#) based on the Linux version (no sound). Build and run Battalion with:

```
$ tar xfz battalion1.4b-freebsd.tar.gz
$ cd battalion1.4b-freebsd/
$ gmake battalion CC=gcc
$ ./battalion
```

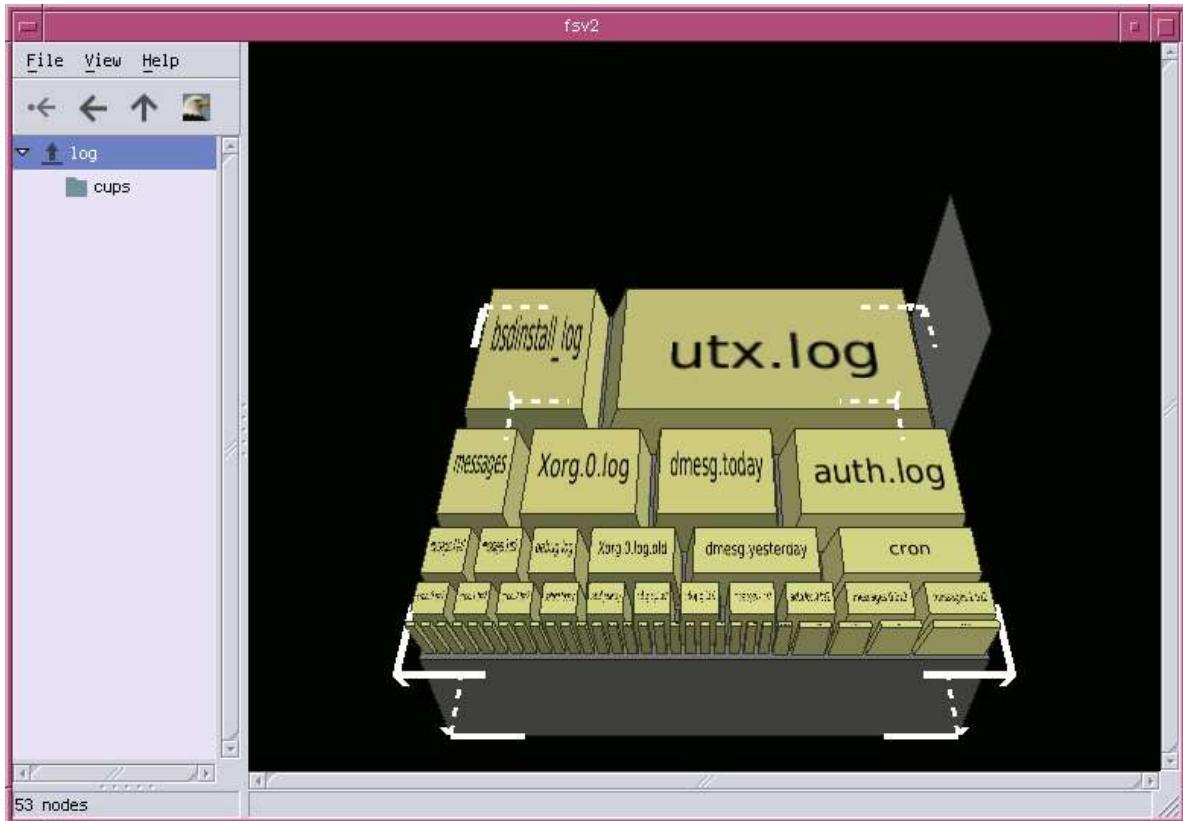
Free42



Simulation of the HP-42S scientific calculator and HP-82240 printer.

```
# pkg install misc/free42
```

FSV2



A 3D filesystem visualiser, like [fsn](#) for SGI IRIX. Prone to crashing (perhaps, UTF-8 issues).

```
# pkg install x11-fm/fsv2
```

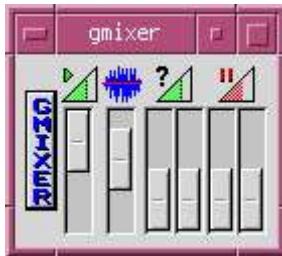
GLXGears



A simple OpenGL tool for testing your graphics adapter.

```
# pkg install graphics/mesa-demos
```

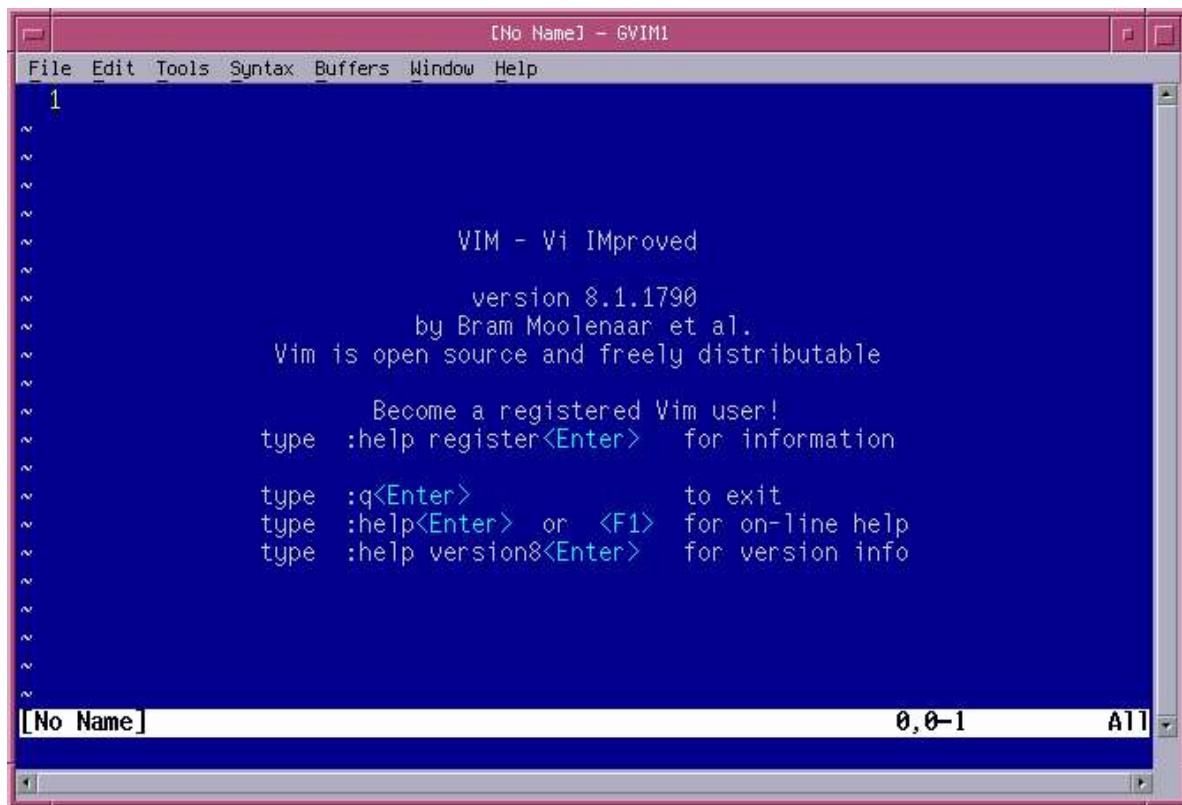
GMixer



Audio mixer for X11, based on now deprecated GTK+ 1.2.

```
# pkg install audio/gmixer
```

GVIM



Improved version of the vi editor. The graphical front-end can be compiled with either X11, Motif, Xaw, or GTK+ 2/3.

```
# pkg install editors/vim
```

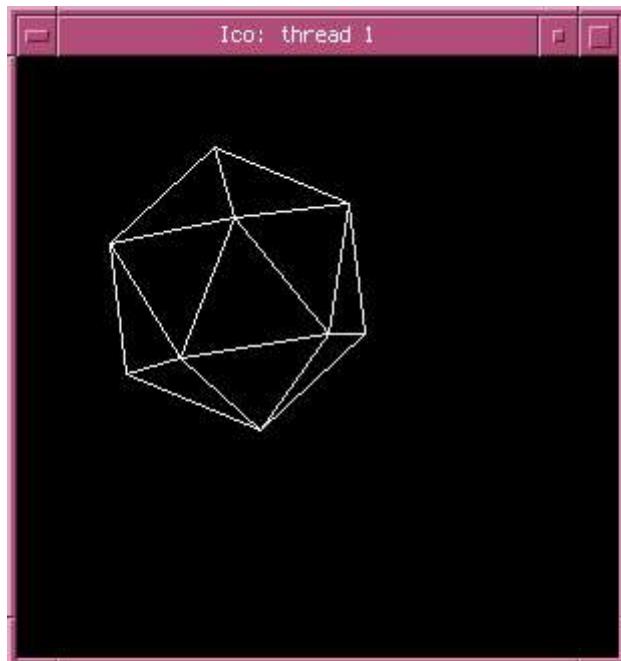
HP-15C



Emulator of the HP-15C programmable calculator, written in Tcl/Tk. The source-code is available on the [official website](#).

```
$ unzip HP-15C_4.1.00_Source.zip
$ wish8.6 ./HP-15C.tcl
```

Ico



Displays wire-framed rotating polyhedrons.

```
# pkg install x11/ico
```

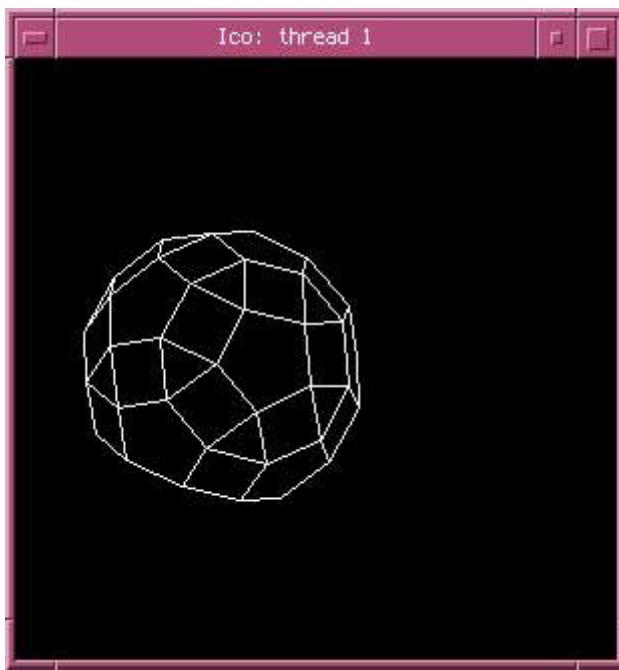
Mgdiff



Motif-based front-end to the Unix diff command. The appearance of `mgdiff` is based upon a program called `gdiff`, which runs only on Silicon Graphics workstations and for which source code is not provided.

```
# pkg install textproc/mgdiff
```

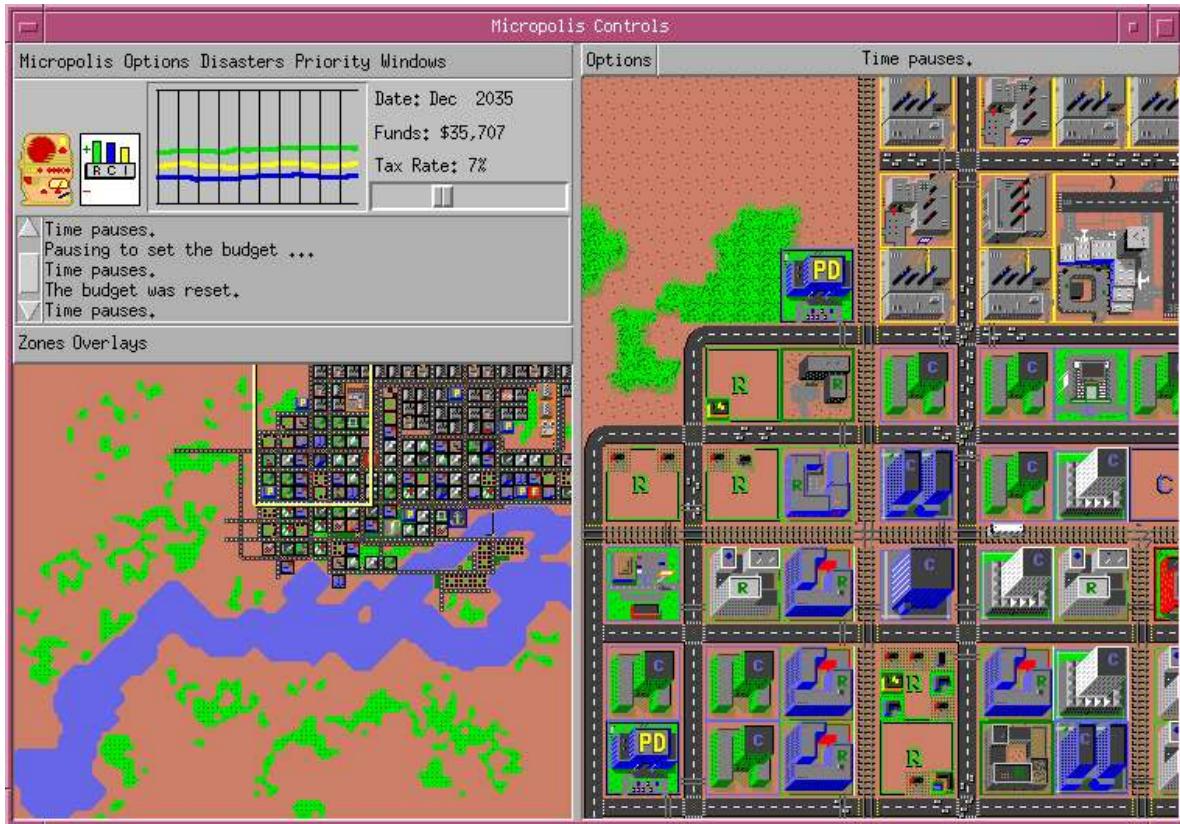
MxIco



Maho's eXtended Ico is a simple demo for X, rotating polyhedra in the window. See [this table](#) for reference and start MxIco with, for example, `mxico -sleep 1 -obj n65`.

```
# pkg install x11/mxico
```

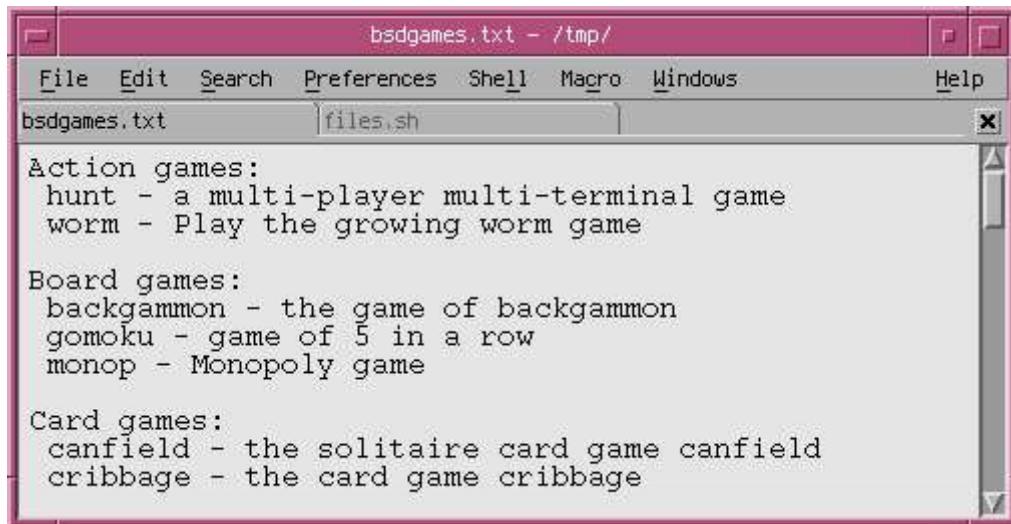
Micropolis



Open-source version of the famous computer game SimCity. Available on [GitHub](#).

```
$ git clone https://github.com/interkosmos/micropolis
```

NEdit



X11/Motif GUI text editor for programs and plain text files.

```
# pkg install editors/nedit
```

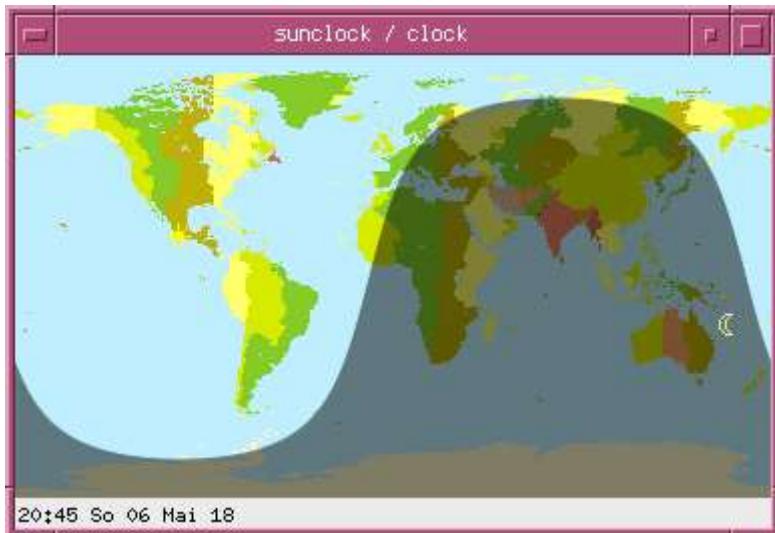
Plan



Plan is a schedule planner based on X/Motif.

```
# pkg install deskutils/plan
```

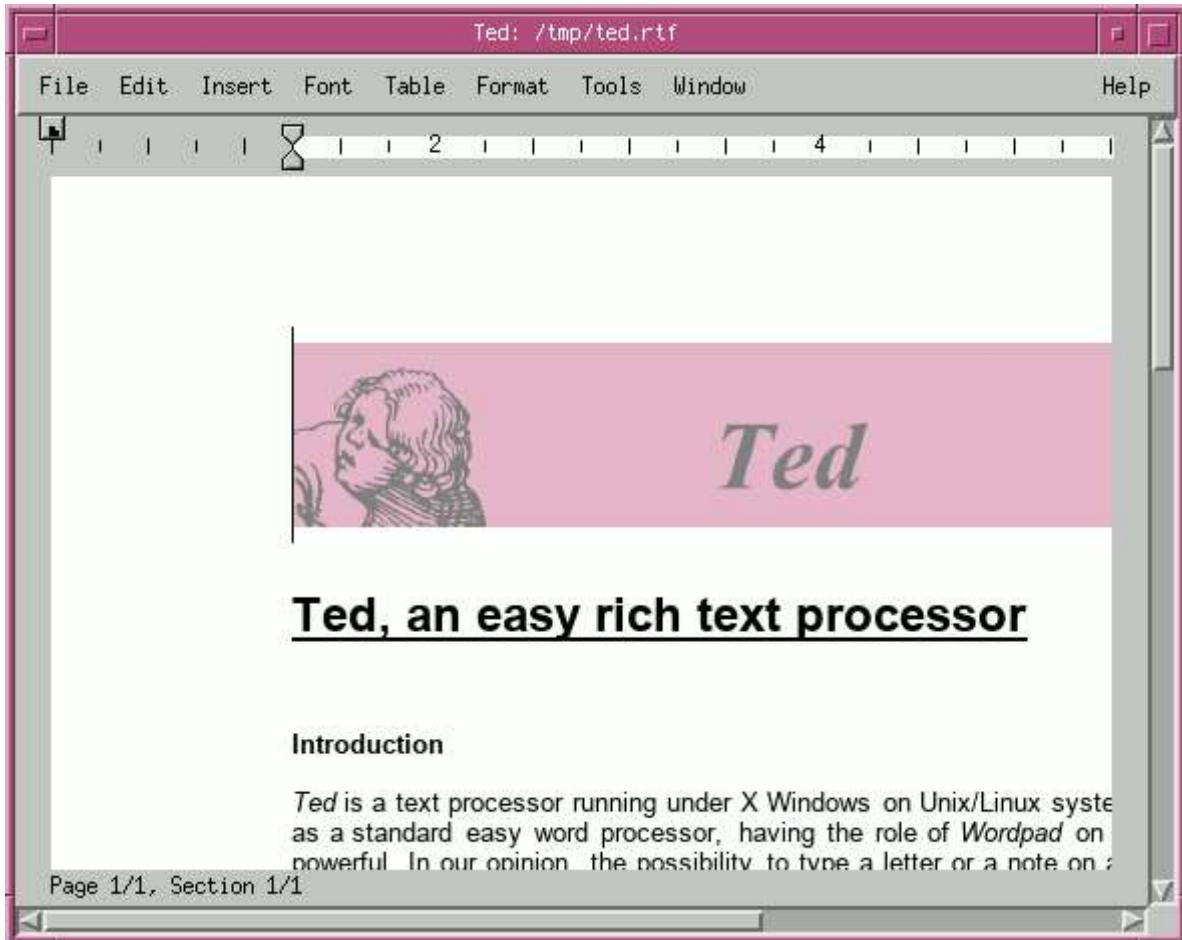
Sunclock



A fancy clock for the X Window system, providing local time (legal time and solar time), sunrise, sunset and various geographical data through a point and click interface.

```
# pkg install astro/sunclock
```

Ted



Introduction

Ted is a text processor running under X Windows on Unix/Linux systems as a standard easy word processor, having the role of *Wordpad* on Windows. In our opinion, the possibility to type a letter or a note on a piece of paper is a powerful feature.

Page 1/1, Section 1/1

A simple RTF editor for X11. Can either be compiled with Motif or GTK+ 2. The binary starts with an upper-case letter (`Ted`). Prone to crashing.

```
# pkg install editors/ted
```

TiEmu



Emulator for Texas Instruments TI-89/TI-92 (Plus)/Voyage 200 graphical calculators. ROM files not included. TIGCC is a compatible C compiler, based on GCC, and available as a FreeBSD port as well.

```
# pkg install emulators/tiemu3
```

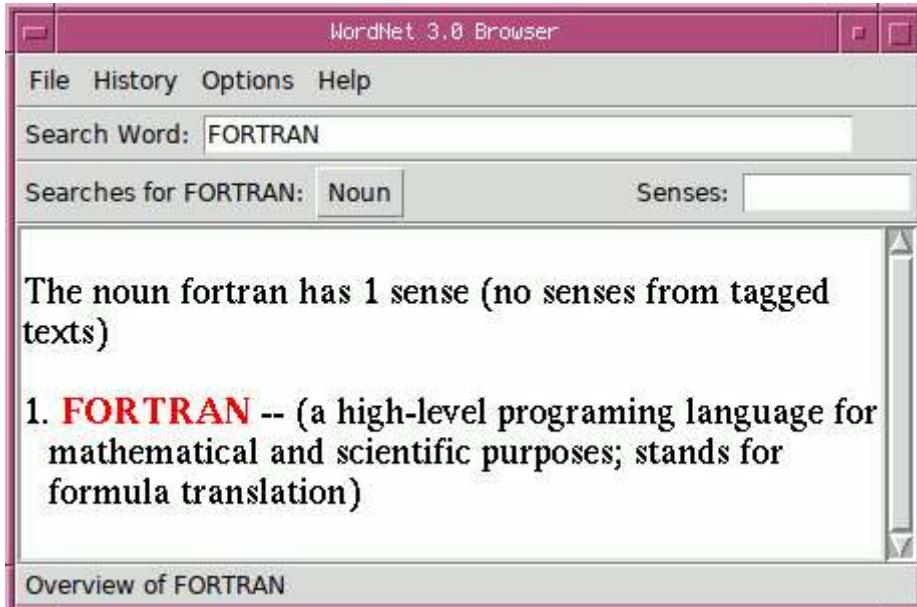
WMY2K



Dock app that simply counts down the days, hours, minutes, and seconds left until 00:00 January 1, 2000.

```
$ fetch http://www.cs.mun.ca/~gstarkes/wmaker/dockapps/files/wmy2k-2.0beta1.tar.gz
$ tar xfvz wmy2k-2.0beta1.tar.gz
$ cd wmy2k-2.0beta1/
$ make CC=gcc
$ ./wmy2k
```

WordNet

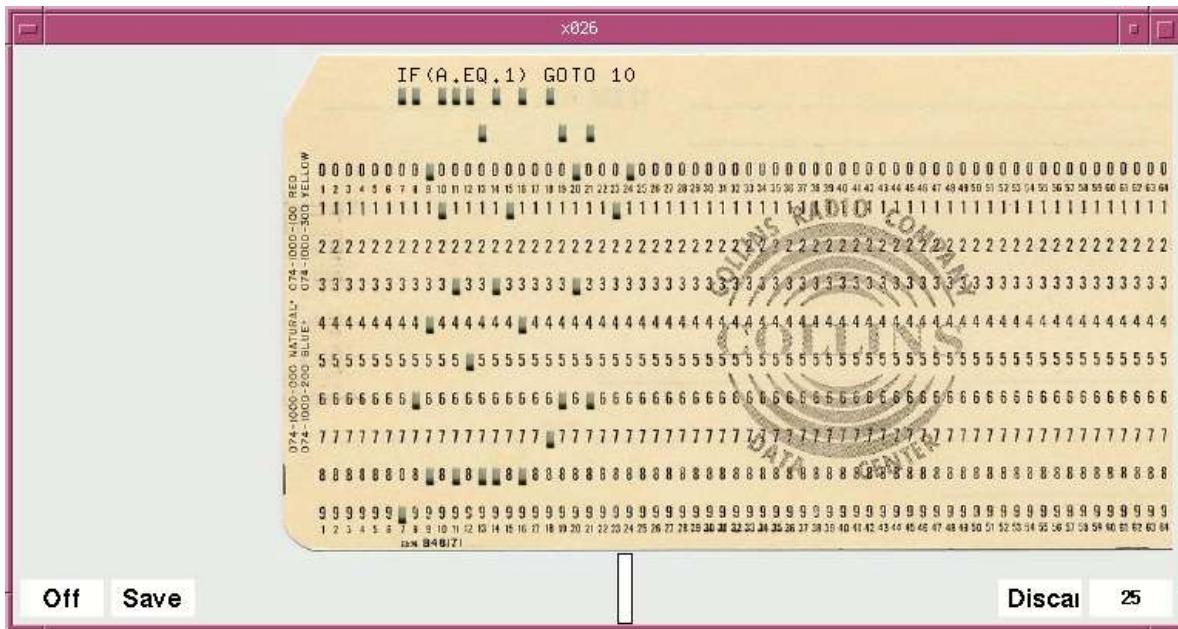


WordNet is a lexical reference system that combines aspects of dictionaries and thesauri with psycholinguistic theories of human lexical memory. It is developed by the Cognitive Science Laboratory at Princeton University.

The graphical WordNet browser `wnb` depends on Tcl/Tk:

```
# pkg install x11-toolkits/tk86 textproc/wordnet
```

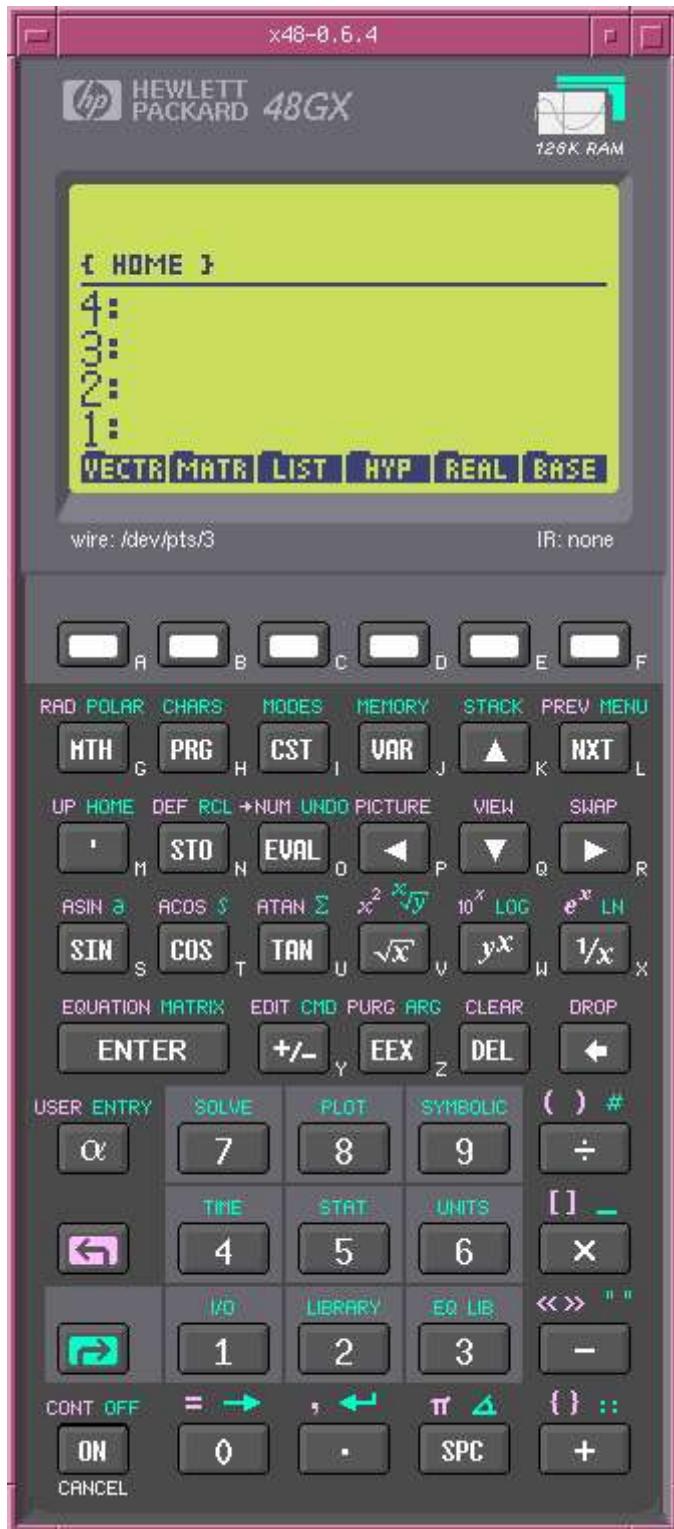
x026



X026 is an keypunch emulator, simulating the [IBM 026](#). Perfect for writing FORTRAN code on Hollerith punch cards and getting a clearer picture of how laborious data input back then was. The default character set is [BCD-H](#).

```
# pkg install deskutils/x026
```

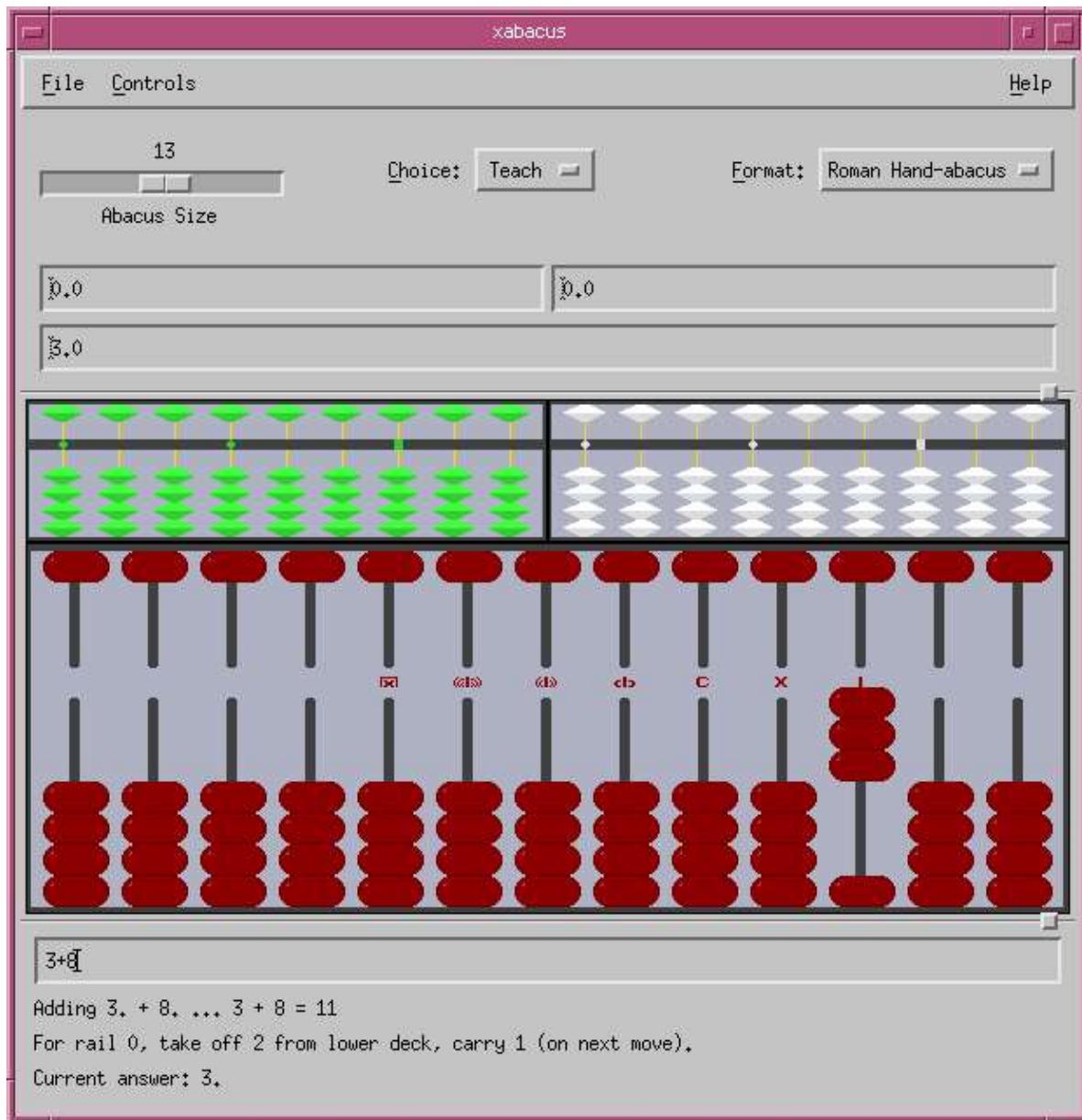
X48



Emulator of the HP 48GX graphing calculator. ROM image is included.

```
# pkg install emulators/x48
```

XAbacus



Simply an abacus for the X Window System.

```
# pkg install games/xabacus
```

XAntfarm



Ant hill simulation on the X11 root window.

```
# pkg install x11/xantfarm
```

XArchiver



XArchiver is a GTK+ 2 front-end to various archiving tools (`tar`, `zip`, `7z`, ...).

```
# pkg install archivers/xarchiver
```

XASCII

X ASCII Chart							
000	NUL	022	SYC	044	,	066	B
001	SOH	023	ETB	045	-	067	C
002	STX	024	CAN	046	*	068	D
003	ETX	025	EM	047	/	069	E
004	EOT	026	SUB	048	0	070	F
005	ENQ	027	ESC	049	1	071	G
006	ACK	028	FS	050	2	072	H
007	BEL	029	GS	051	3	073	I
008	BS	030	RS	052	4	074	J
009	HT	031	US	053	5	075	K
010	LF	032	SPA	054	6	076	L
011	VT	033	!	055	7	077	M
012	FF	034	"	056	8	078	N
013	CR	035	#	057	9	079	O
014	SO	036	\$	058	:	080	P
015	SI	037	%	059	;	081	Q
016	DLE	038	&	060	<	082	R
017	DC1	039	'	061	=	083	S
018	DC2	040	(062	>	084	T
019	DC3	041)	063	?	085	U
020	DC4	042	*	064	@	086	V
021	NAK	043	+	065	A	087	W
						098	b
						099	c
						100	d
						101	e
						102	f
						103	g
						104	h
						105	i
						106	j
						107	k
						108	l
						109	m
						110	n
						111	o
						112	p
						113	q
						114	r
						115	s
						116	t
						117	u
						118	v
						119	w
						120	x
						121	y
						122	z
						123	€
						124	l
						125	3
						126	~
						127	DEL

XASCII displays the ASCII table in hex, decimal, and octal.

```
# pkg install x11/xascii
```

XBiff



XBiff shows a small mailbox with its flag raised when new mail arrives in your inbox. It simply monitors the size of a given file. For instance, the cache of the Sylpheed e-mail client can be watched with:

```
$ xbiff -file $HOME/.sylpheed-2.0/imapcache/<server>/<address>/INBOX/.sylpheed_cache
```

You can change the pixmap in `~/.Xdefaults`:

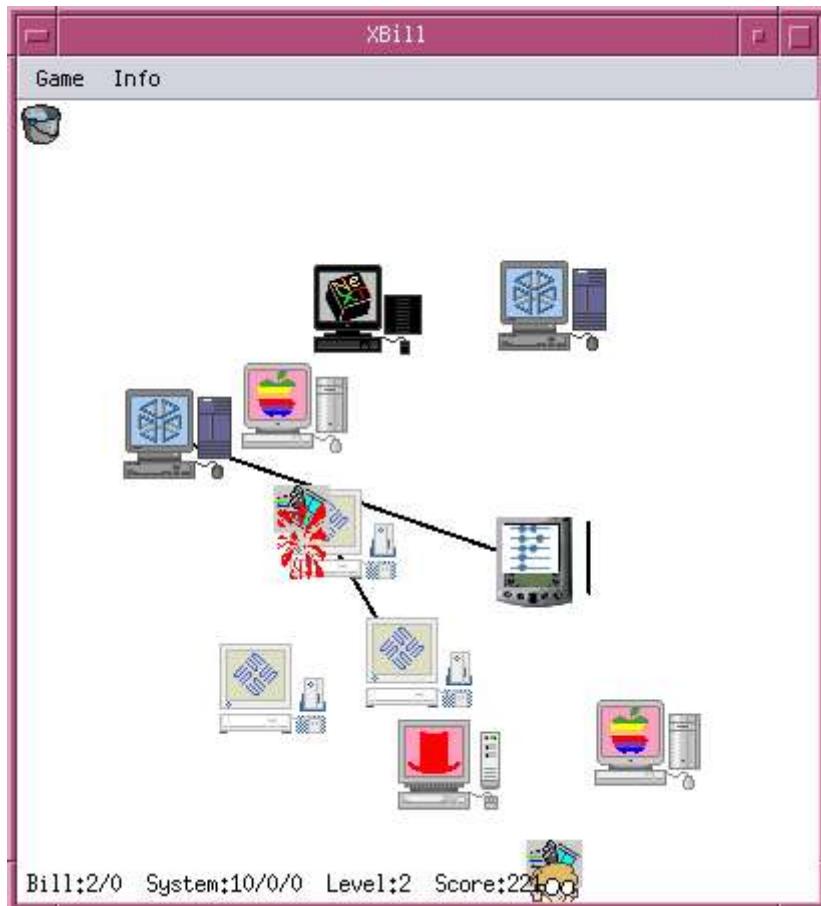
```
xbiff*flip: false
xbiff*fullPixmap: mailfull
xbiff*emptyPixmap: mailempty
xbiff*fullPixmapMask: mailfullmsk
```

```
xbiff*emptyPixmapMask: mailemptymsk  
xbiff*shapeWindow: true
```

Install it with:

```
# pkg install x11/xbiff
```

XBill



[XBill](#) is an arcade game from 1994 in which the player has to prevent an evil computer hacker named “[Bill](#)” from installing a popular operating system on various machines. The OS can spread over networks and purges existing systems (BSD, Solaris, SGI IRIX, ...). A contemporary modification of the game is known as [XLennart](#).

```
# pkg install games/xbill
```

XBoard



XBoard is a graphical front-end for chess engines like GNU Chess. Start it with `xboard -fcp 'gnuchess --xboard'`.

```
# pkg install games/xboard
```

XCalc



A simple and clean scientific calculator for X11. Additional colour styles imitating the Texas Instruments TI-30 and the Hewlett-Packard 10C are listed in the file `/usr/local/share/X11/app-defaults/XCalc-color`. Just copy one of the styles into your `~/.Xdefaults`.

```
# pkg install x11/xcalc
```

XCalendar



A calendar with an integrated notebook.

```
# pkg install deskutils/xcalendar
```

XCHM

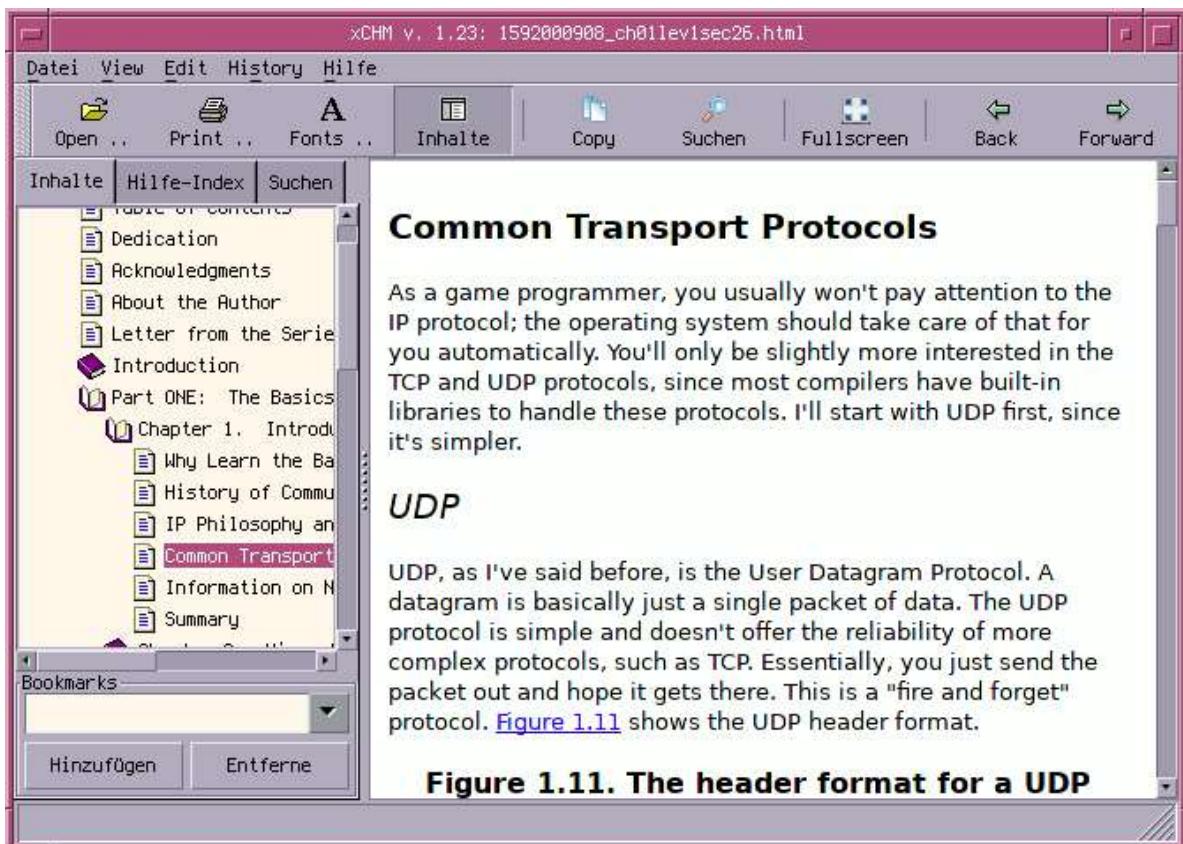
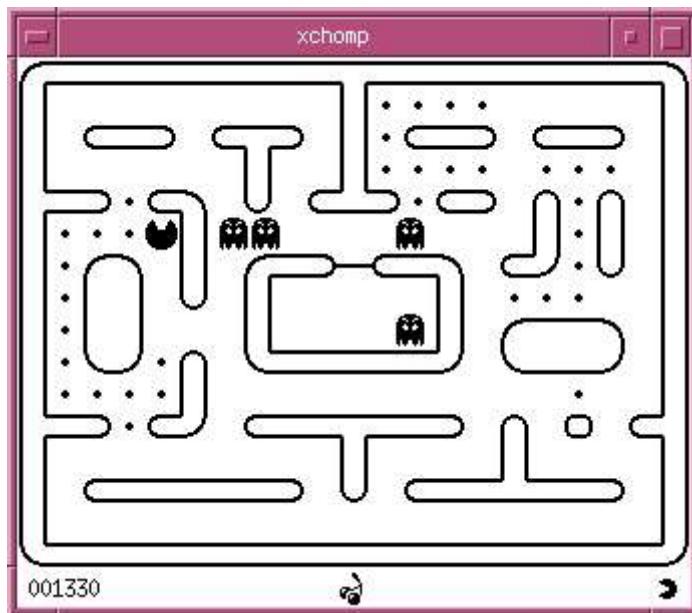


Figure 1.11. The header format for a UDP

Microsoft Windows [help file](#) viewer for Unix.

```
# pkg install deskutils/xchm
```

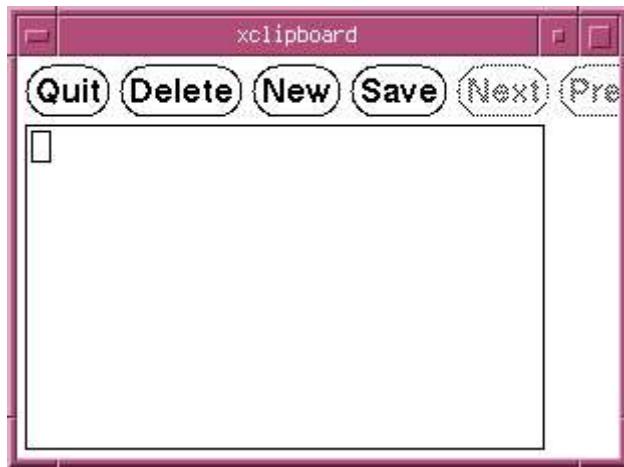
XChomp



Clone of the famous arcade game Pac-Man for X. See also the [unofficial homepage](#).

```
# pkg install games/xchomp
```

XClipboard



A client for clipboard management in X.

```
# pkg install x11/xclipboard
```

XClock



An analog and digital clock for X.

```
# pkg install x11-clocks/xclock
```

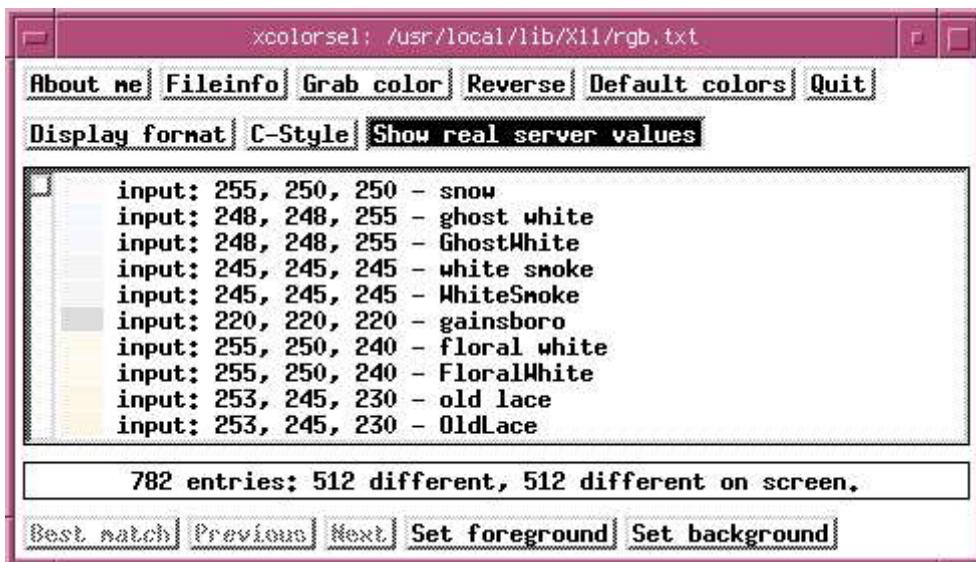
XClock/Cat Clock



A Motif-based variant of MIT `xclock` from 1990 that features a “cat” mode. Available on [GitHub](#).

```
# git clone https://github.com/BarkyTheDog/catclock
```

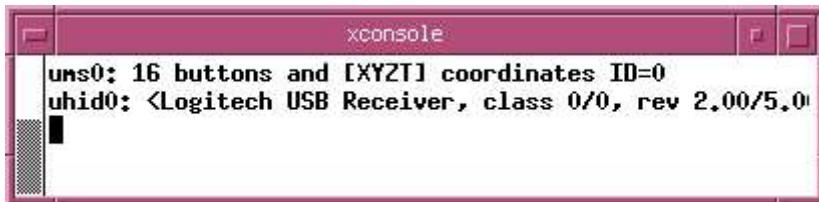
XColorSel



Grabs the colours of X windows.

```
# pkg install x11/xcolorsel
```

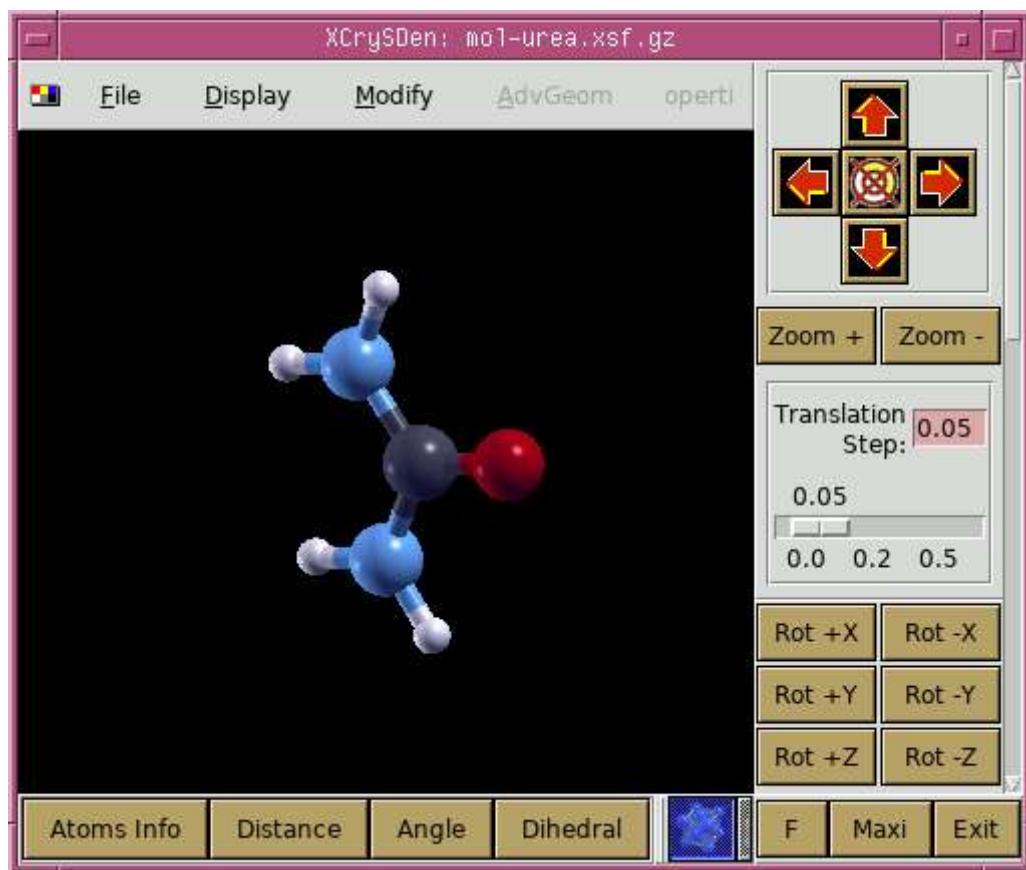
XConsole



XConsole shows system console messages.

```
# pkg install x11/xconsole
```

XCrySDen



Xcrysden is a crystalline and molecular structure visualisation program aiming at display of isosurfaces and contours, which can be superimposed on crystalline structures and interactively rotated and manipulated.

```
# pkg install science/xcrysden
```

XDiary



XDiary will help you keep track of your meetings, appointments and plan your time.

```
# pkg install deskutils/xmdiary
```

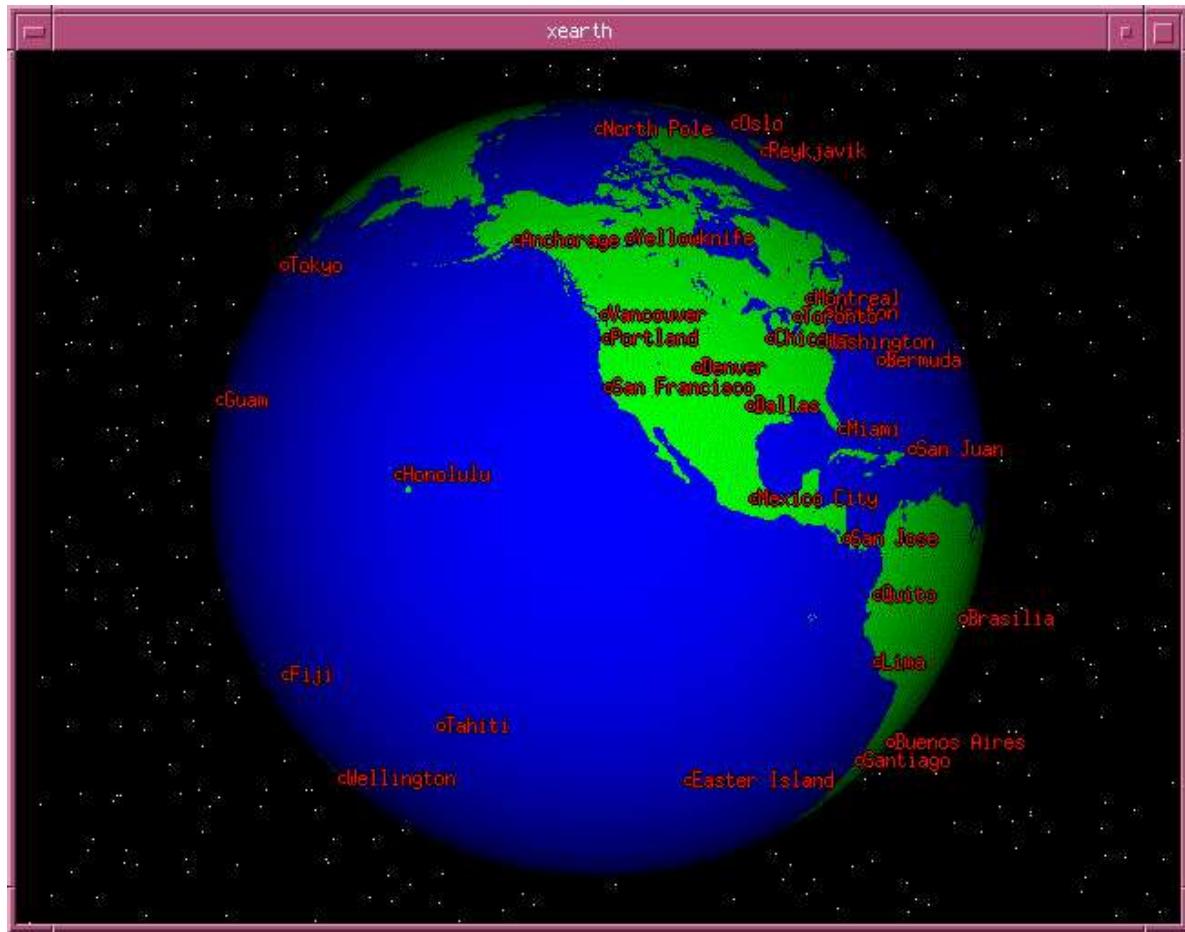
XDigger



Boulderdash-like game for the X Window System. Originally written for the East-German KC 85/3 and KC 85/4 computers in 1988 (see also the author's [website](#)). Unfortunately, the game suffers from a major bug that prevents the rocks from falling.

```
# pkg install games/xdigger
```

XEarth



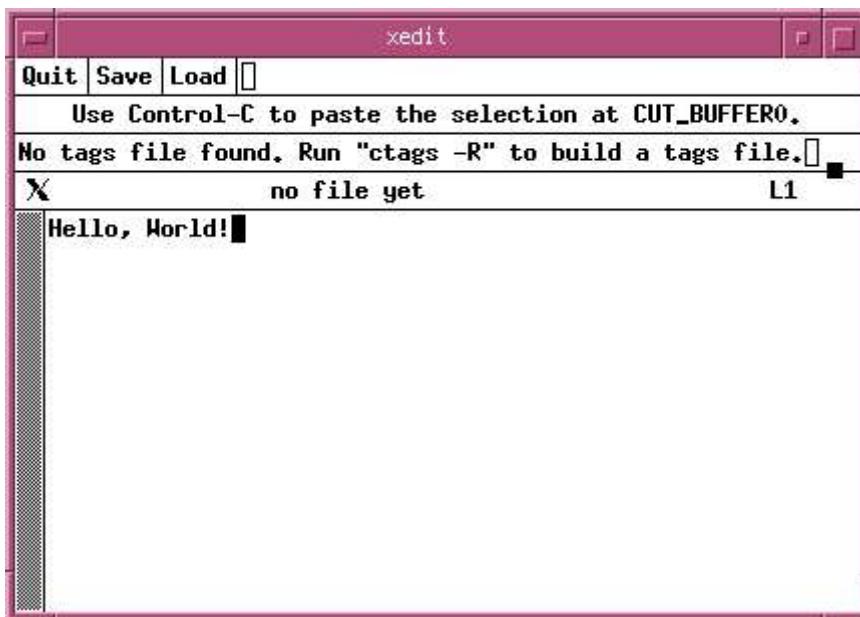
Renders the earth in 3D on the root window, making itself an animated backdrop. To show it inside a window, run:

```
$ xearth -geometry 800x600 -shade -nolabel -wait 1 -timewarp 50 -noroot -twopix
```

Similiar tools are [XWorld](#), [XGlobe](#) and [XPlanet](#), which also texture the earth.

```
# pkg install astro/xearth
```

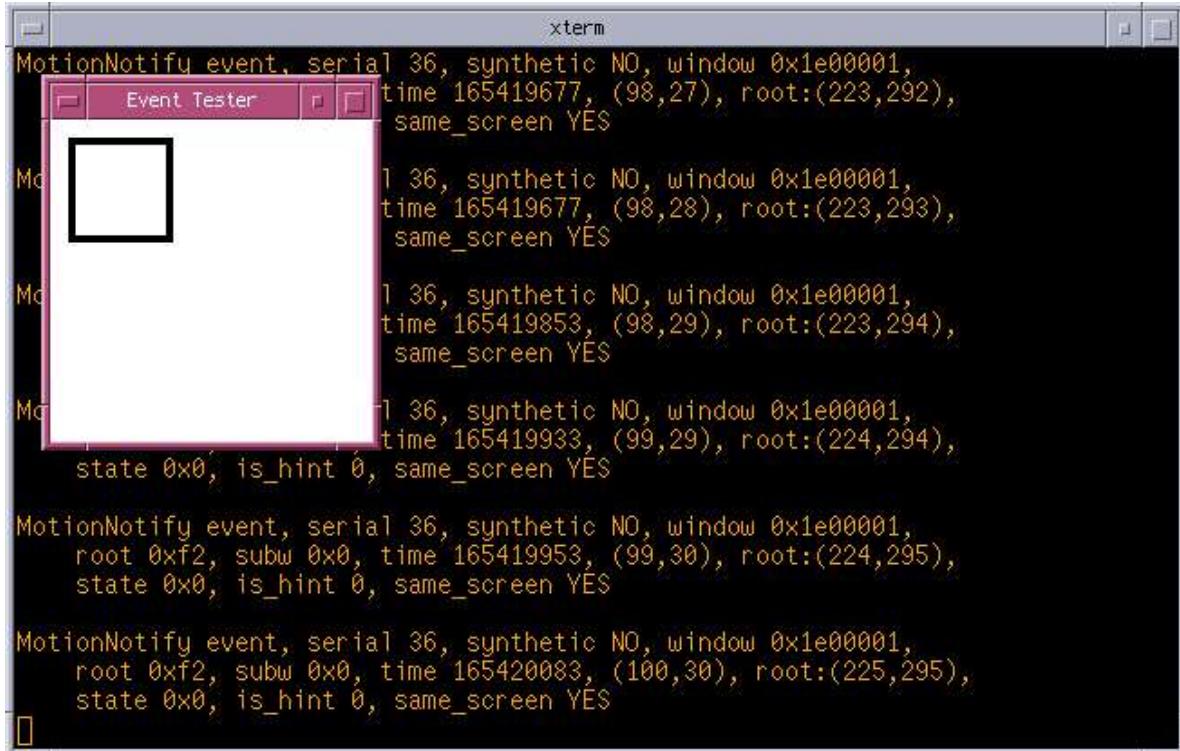
XEdit



A simple text editor for X. The automated backup function for edited files can be disabled by adding `xedit*enableBackups: off` to `~/.Xdefaults`.

```
# pkg install x11/xedit
```

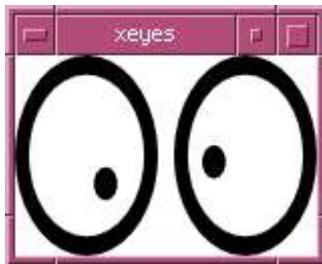
Xev



Prints contents of X events to the terminal.

```
# pkg install x11/xev
```

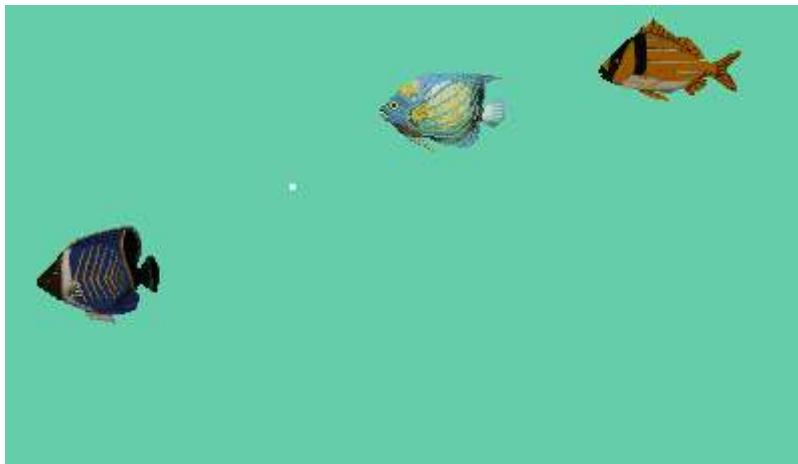
XEyes



Eyes following the mouse cursor.

```
# pkg install x11/xeyes
```

XFishtank



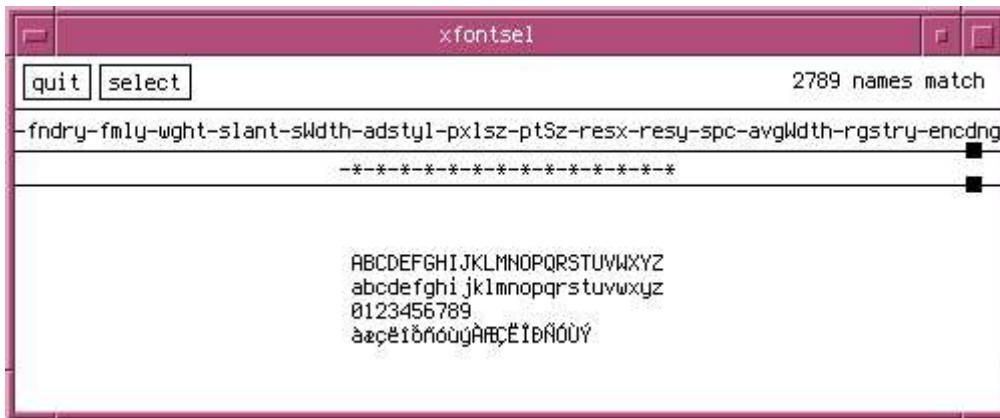
Make fish swim in the background of your screen to waste CPU cycles.

```
# pkg install x11/xfishtank
```

Currently, the port is unfetchable. I patched the Linux version [manually](#) to run on FreeBSD:

```
$ tar xfz xfishtank-2.2.tar.gz
$ cd xfishtank2.0/
$ gmake CC=gcc
$ ./xfishtank -d
```

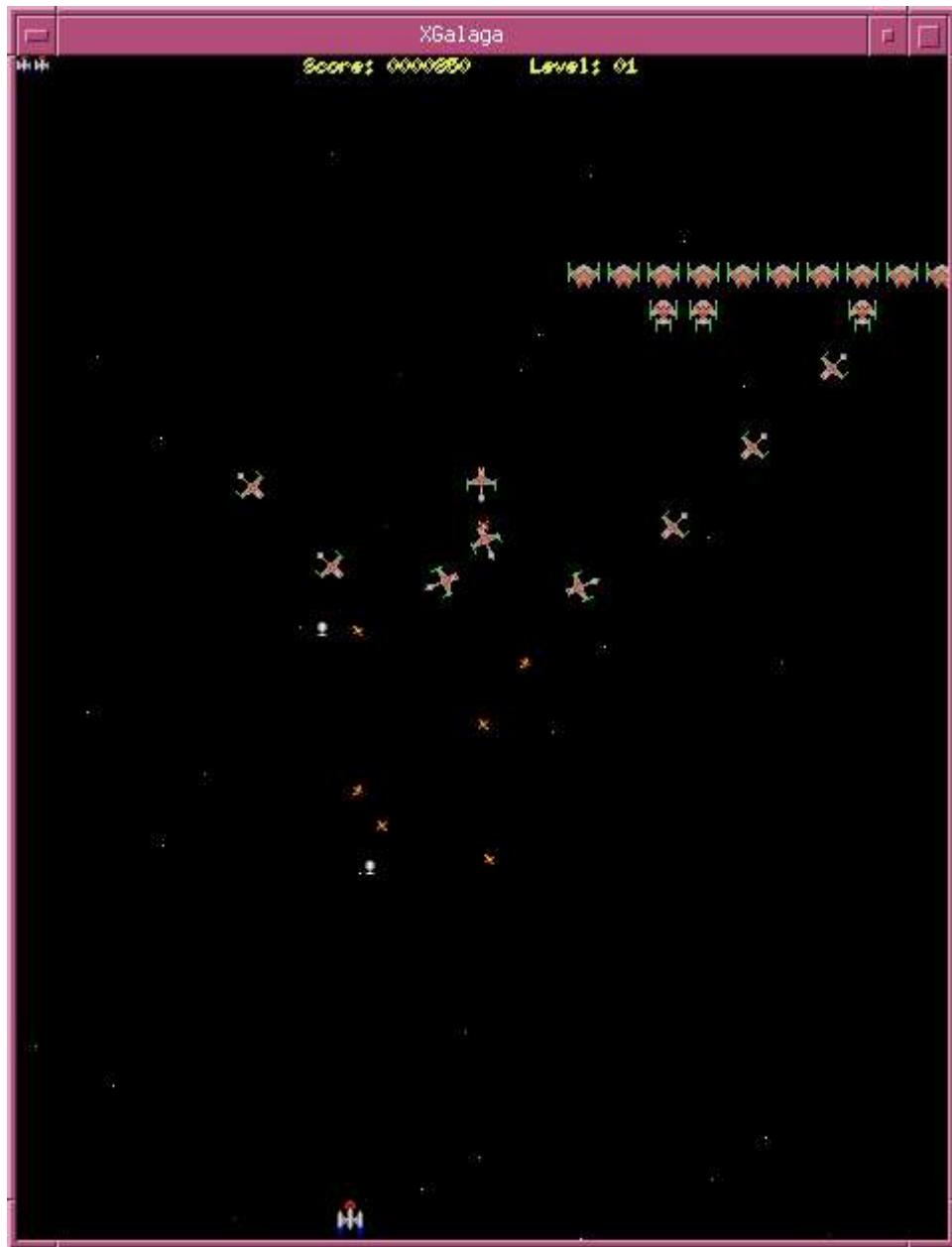
XFontSel



Lists installed fonts and available font options.

```
# pkg install x11-fonts/xfontsel
```

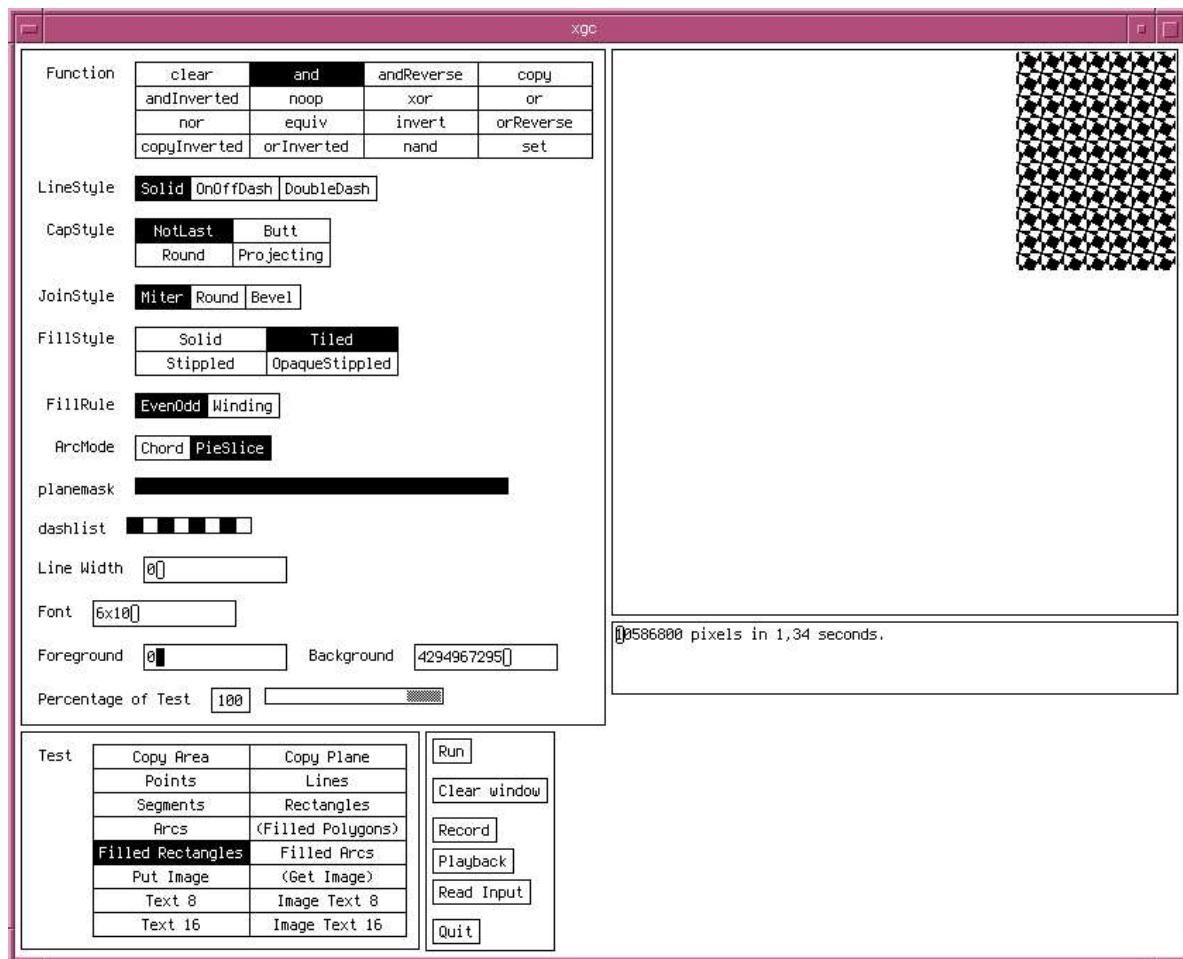
XGalaga



Clone of the classic game Galaga for X11.

```
# pkg install games/xgalaga
```

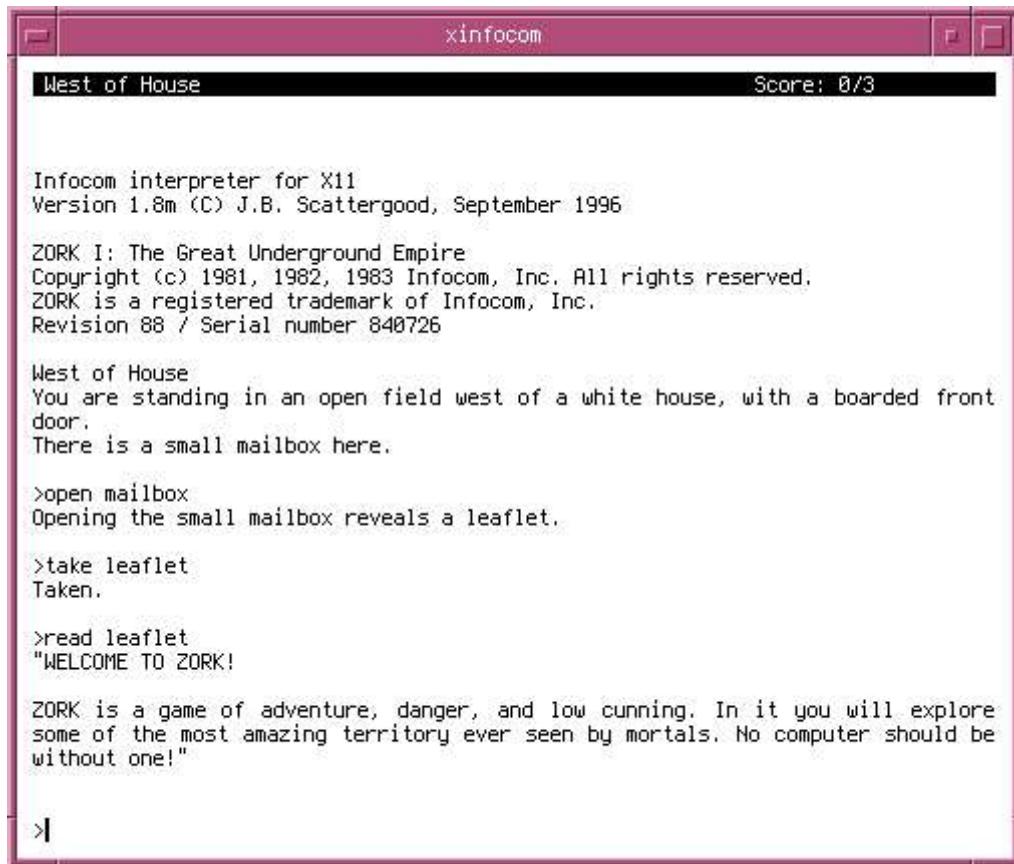
Xgc



X11 program that demonstrates various features of the X graphics primitives.

```
# pkg install x11/xgc
```

XInfocom



Infocom game interpreter for X11.

```
# pkg install games/xinfocom
```

XInvaders 3D



A 3D vector-graphics Space Invaders clone for X11.

```
# pkg install games/xinvaders3d
```

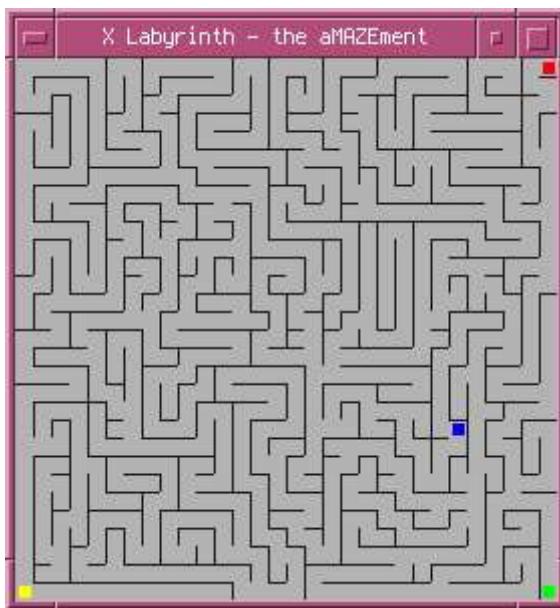
XKill



Command-line tool to kill X applications.

```
# pkg install x11/xkill
```

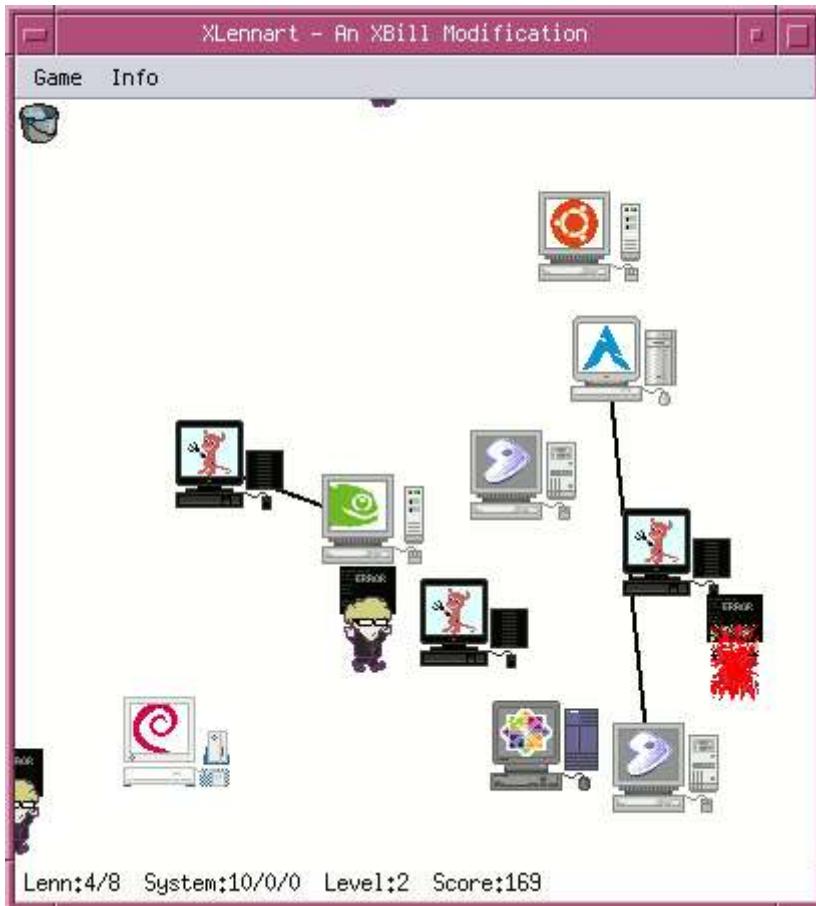
XLaby



Daemonic X Labyrinth played directly with the mouse pointer.

```
# pkg install games/xlaby
```

XLennart

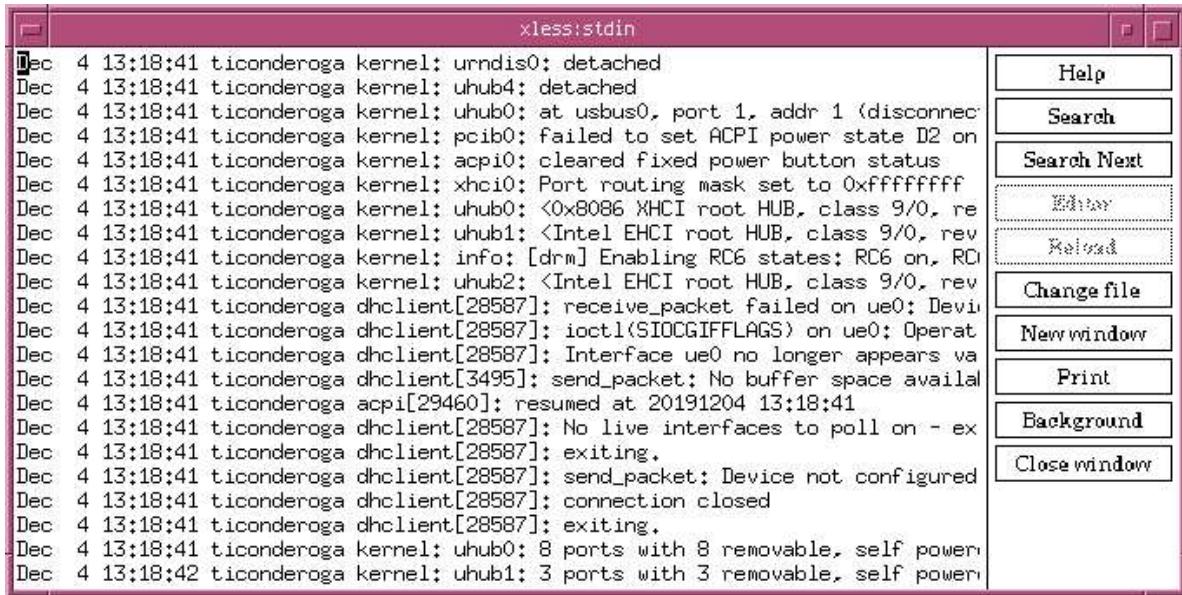


XLennart is a modification of the arcade game [XBill](#). An evil and [unpopular](#) computer hacker named “[Lennart](#)” tries to install his [malicious init system](#) on various BSD and Linux

systems. Like in XBill, the player has to hit him and restore infected machines.

```
# pkg install games/xlennart
```

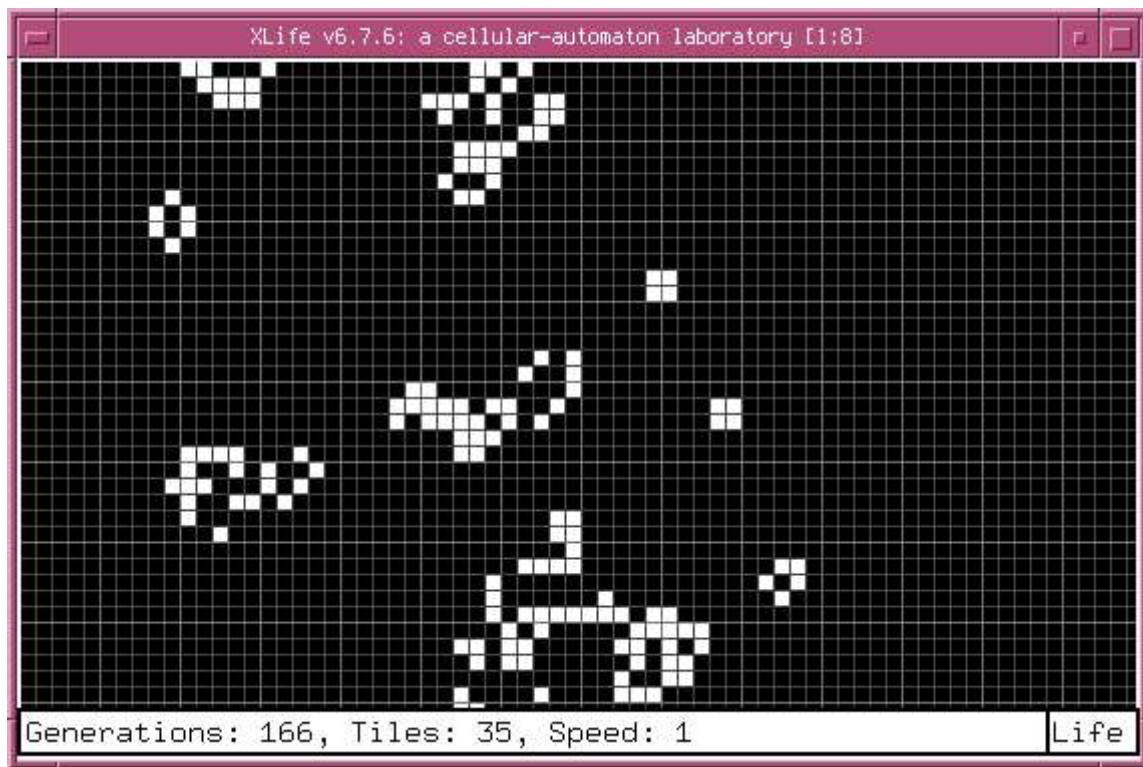
XLess



XLess is less for X.

```
# pkg install misc/xless
```

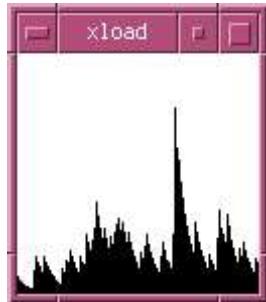
XLife



Cellular automaton for X11 simulating Conway's Game of Life.

```
# pkg install games/xlife
```

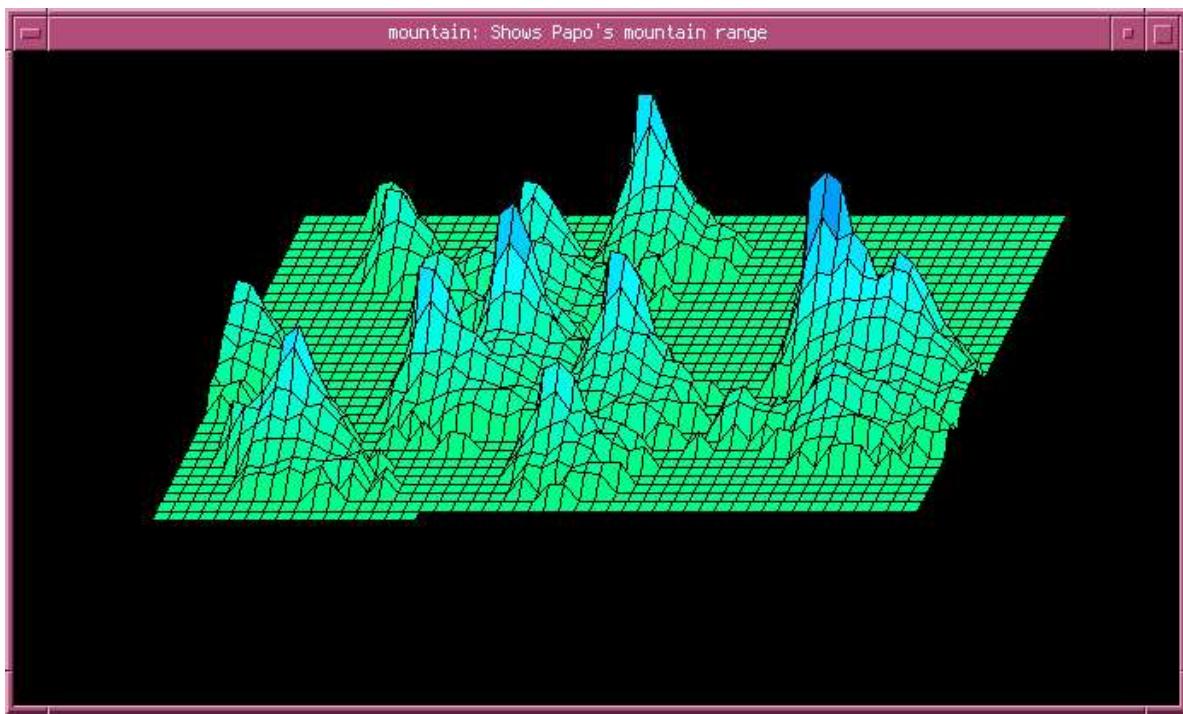
XLoad



XLoad shows the current CPU load.

```
# pkg install x11/xload
```

XLock

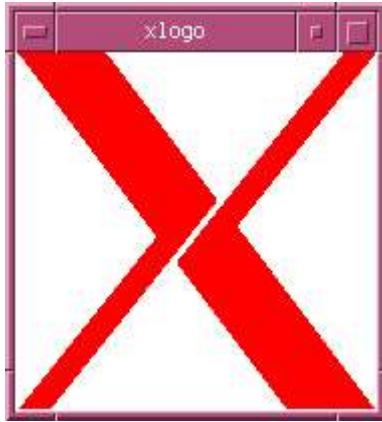


XLock locks the screen and optionally shows a screen saver. It can be combined with [XAutoLock](#) to activate it after a user defined time of inactivity.

A more simple approach is used by [XTransparentLock](#). Jamie Zawinski, the author of XScreenSaver, has listed some reason why you should use [XScreenSaver instead of XLock](#).

```
# pkg install x11/xlockmore
```

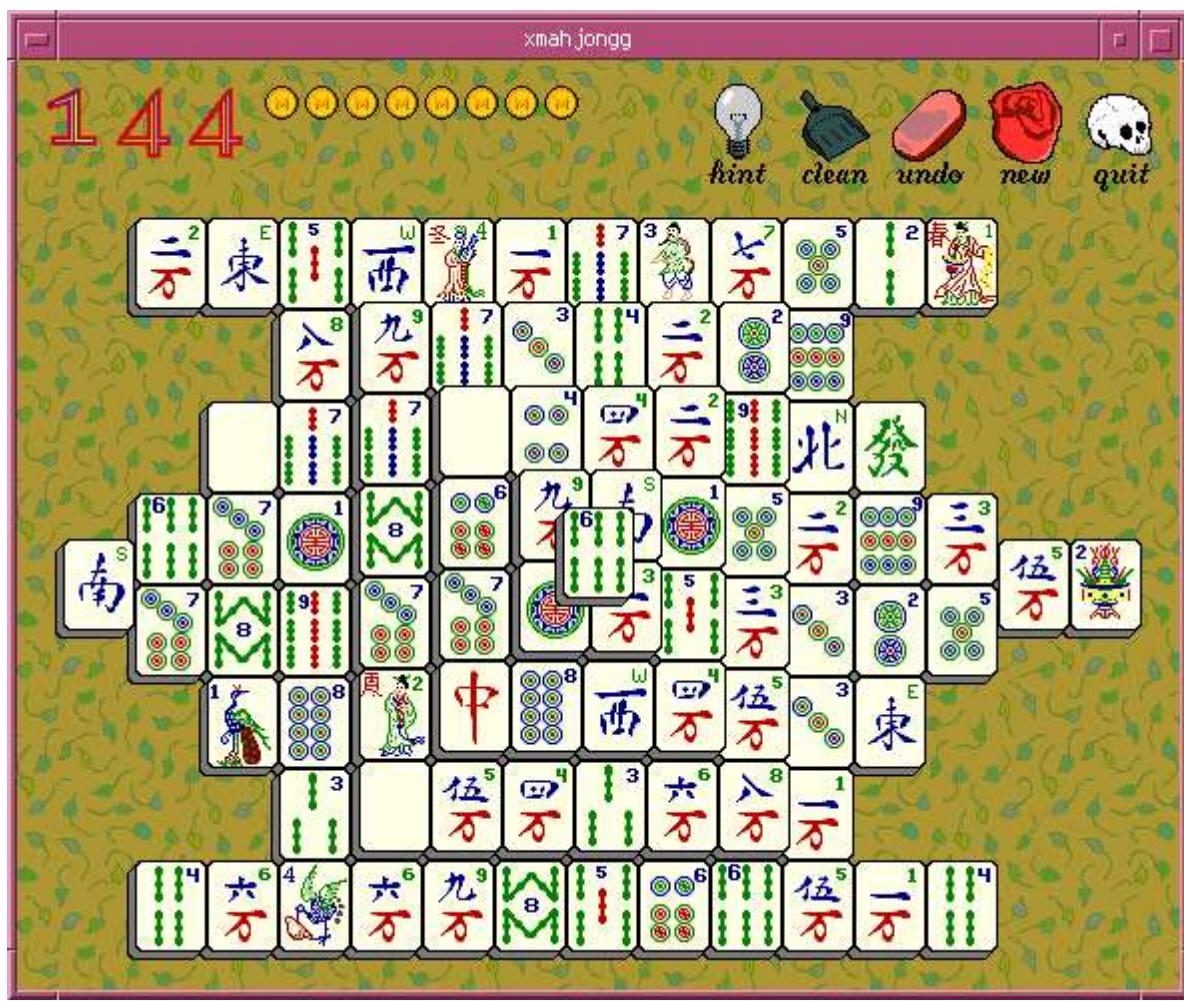
XLogo



XLogo simply draws the logo of the X Window System. The background and foreground colours can be altered in `~/.Xdefaults`.

```
# pkg install x11/xlogo
```

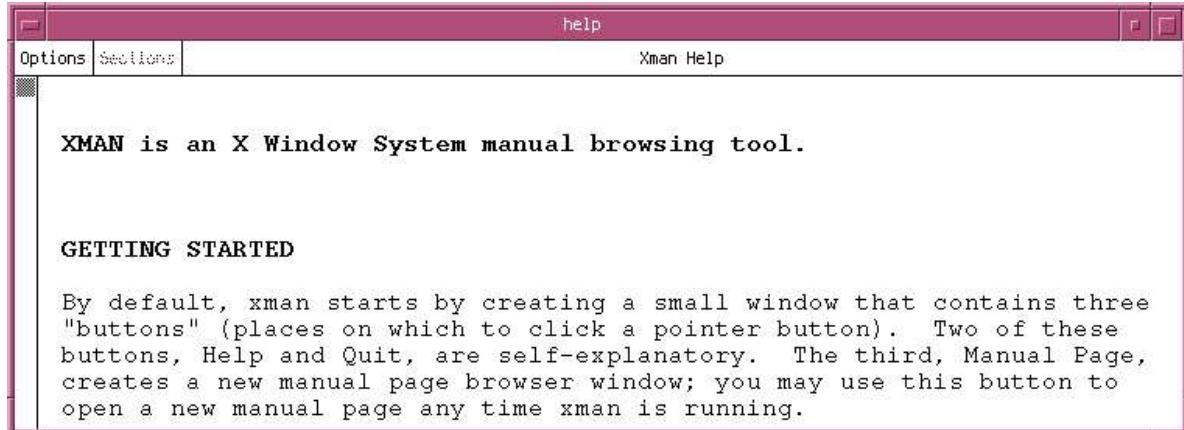
XMahjongg



Classic Mahjongg game for X11. Several tile sets are available.

```
# pkg install games/xmahjongg
```

XMan



XMan displays system man pages.

```
# pkg install x11/xman
```

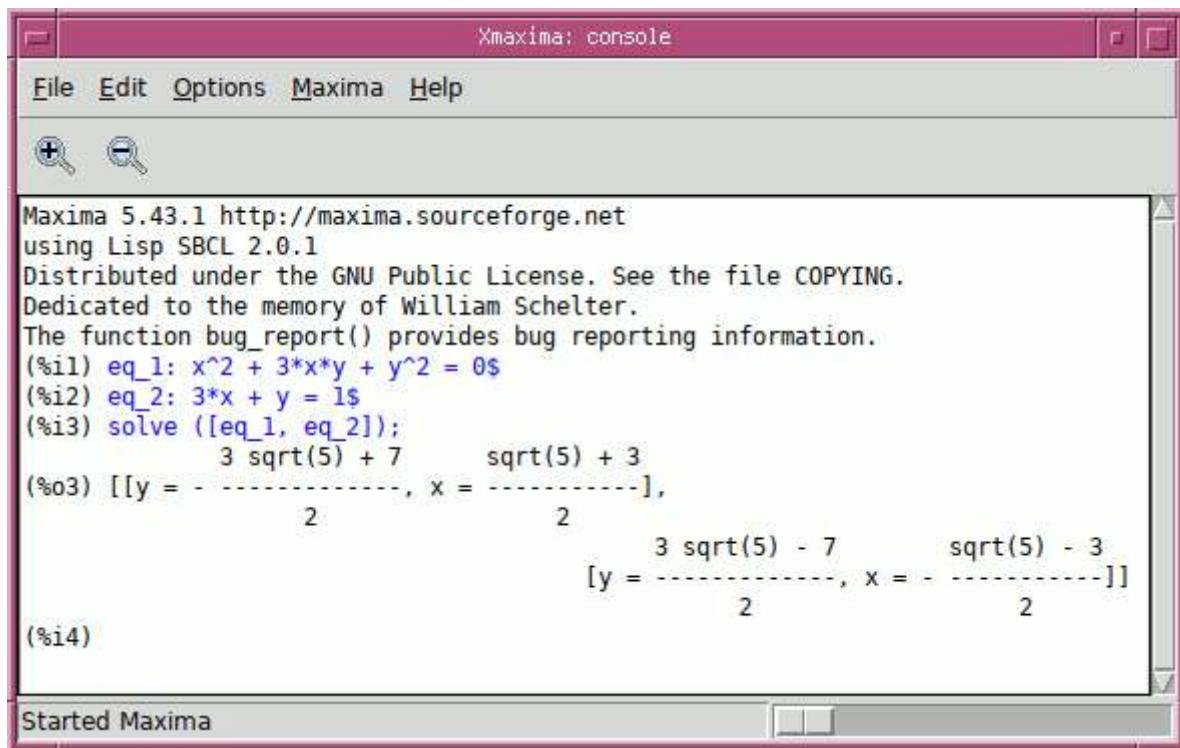
XMascot



XMascot displays a moving mascot on your X11 screen. It can talk, set an alarm, or check your mail.

```
# pkg install x11/xmascot
```

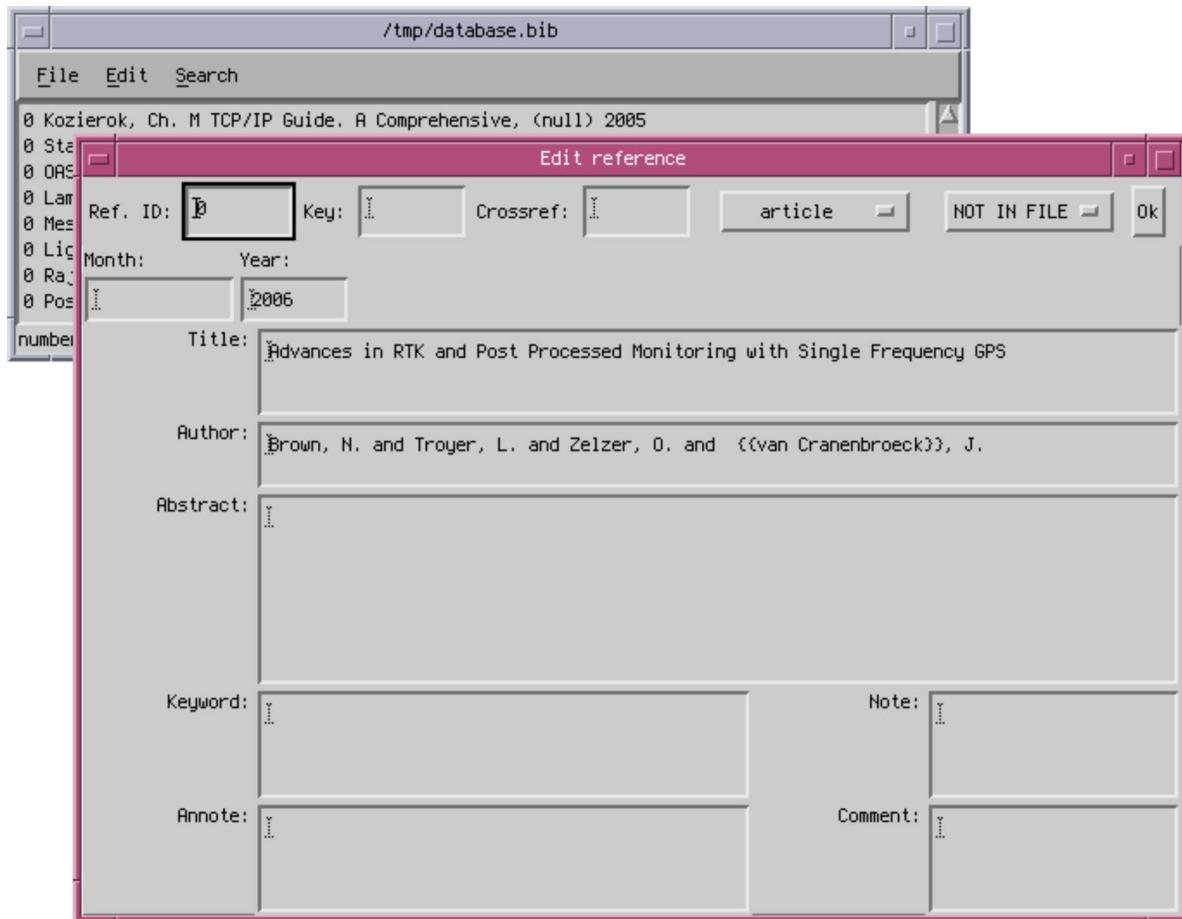
XMaxima



XMaxima is a Tcl/Tk front-end to Maxima, a Computer Algebra System written in Common Lisp.

```
# pkg install math/xmaxima
```

XmBibTeX



XmBibTeX is a Motif reference manager based on the BibTeX file format. It allows to add, delete, and edit references. The references can be saved in the BibTeX file format, and also written directly to a LaTeX file. No Unicode support.

```
# pkg install print/xmbibtex
```

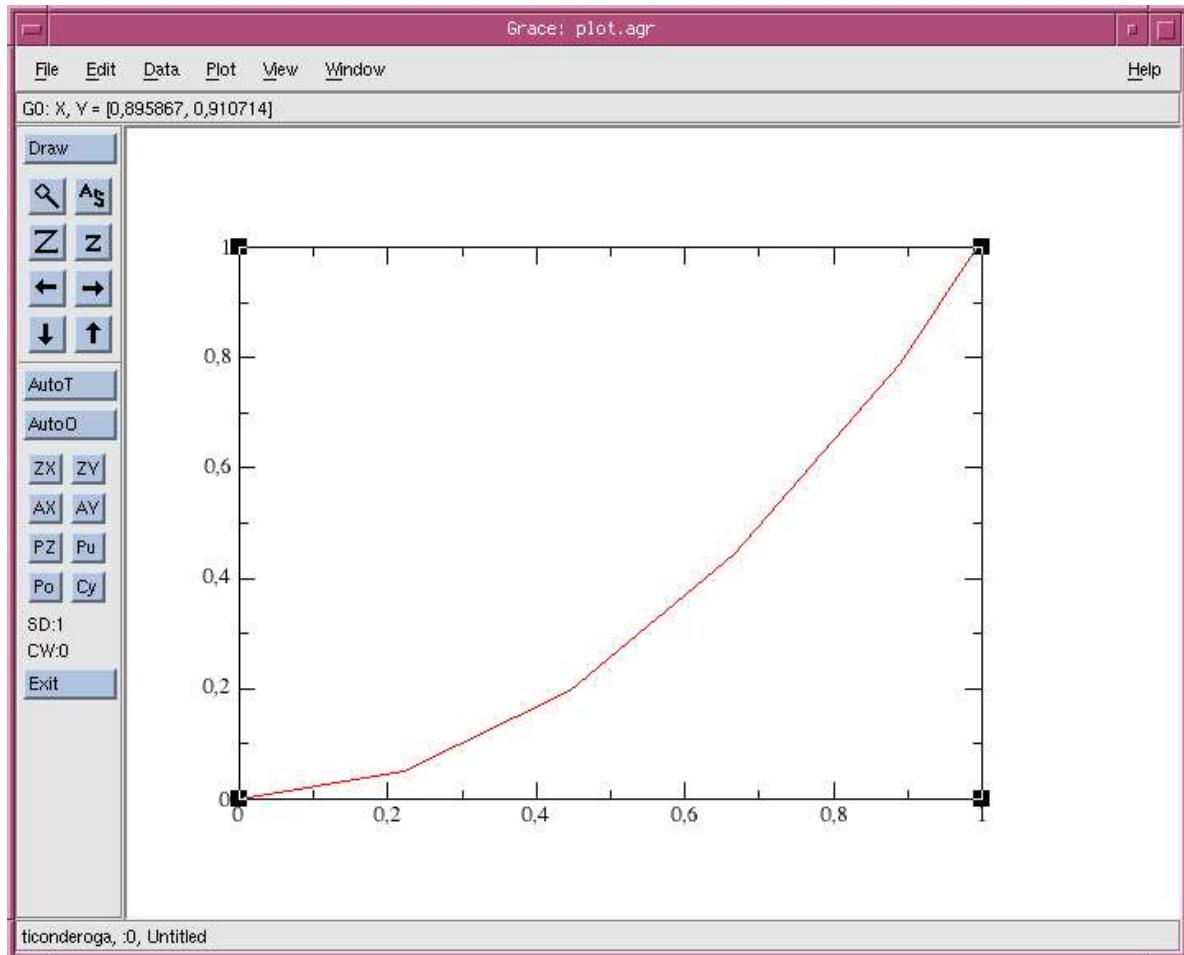
XMessage



XMessage displays arbitrary text messages.

```
# pkg install x11/xmessage
```

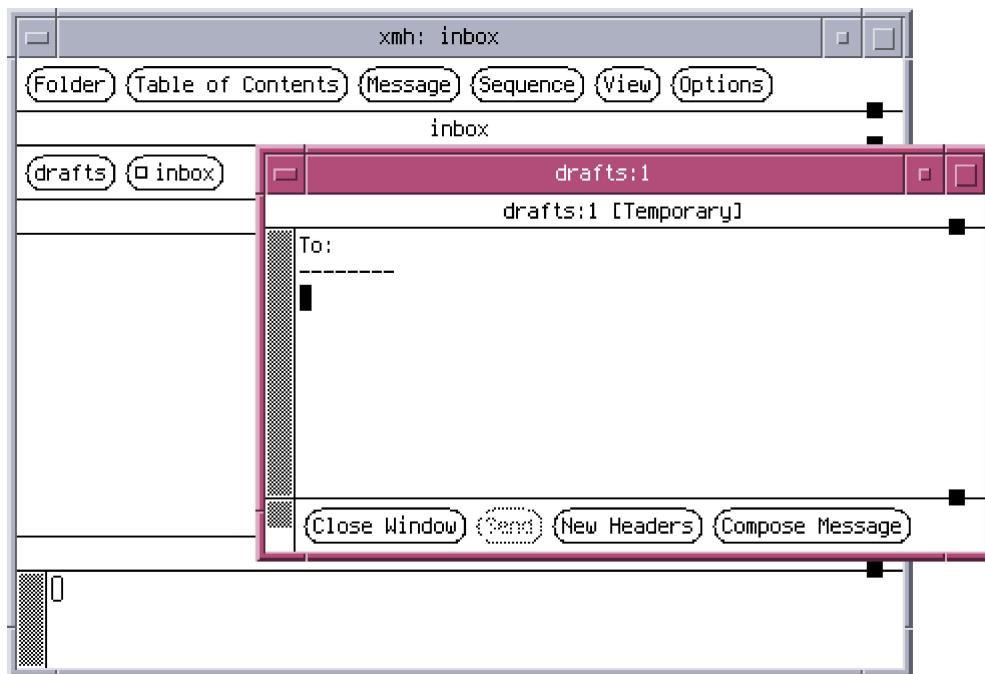
XmGrace



A WYSIWYG 2D plotting tool for the X Window System and Motif. Features polynomial regression, splines, running averages, DFT/FFT, and cross/auto-correlation.

```
# pkg install math/grace
```

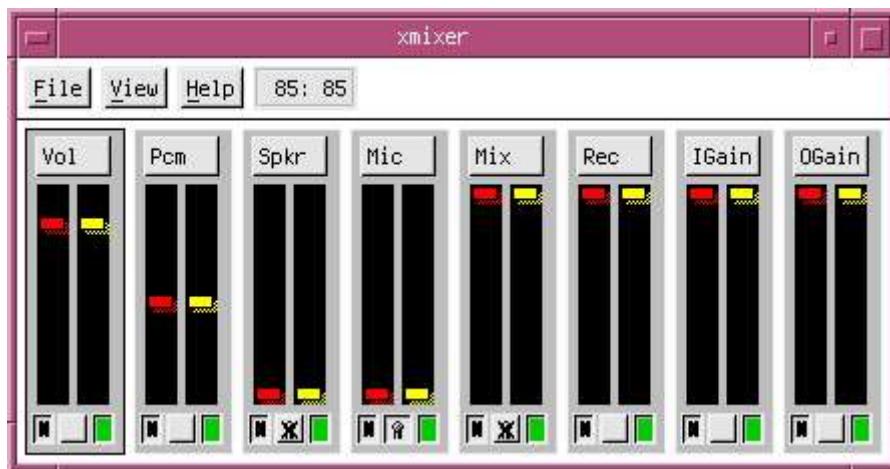
XMH



Graphical user interface to the [MH Message Handling System](#).

```
# pkg install x11/xmh
```

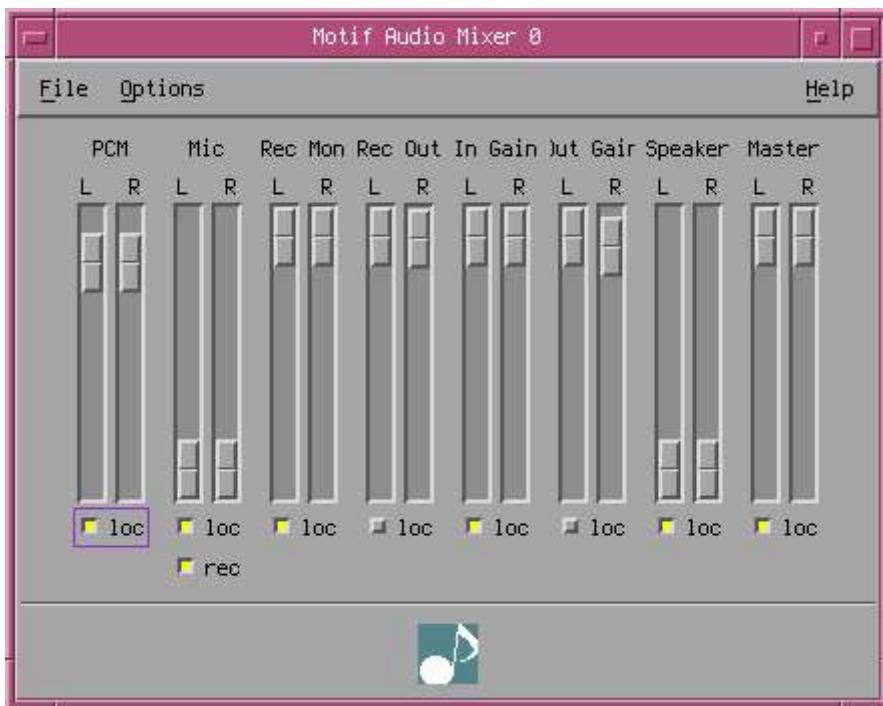
XMixer



Audio mixer for X11.

```
# pkg install audio/xmixer
```

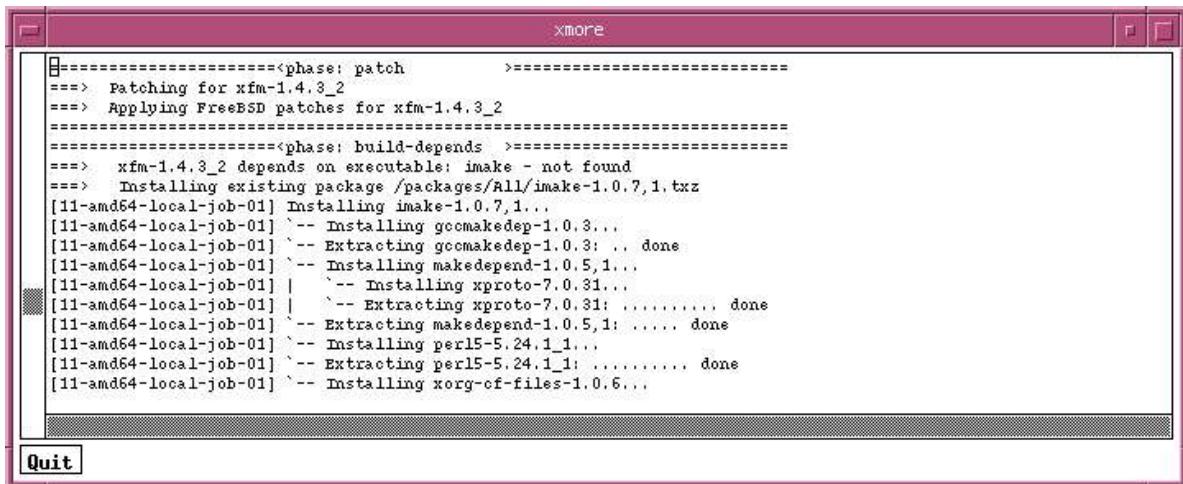
XmMix



Motif-based audio mixer for X11.

```
# pkg install audio/xmmix
```

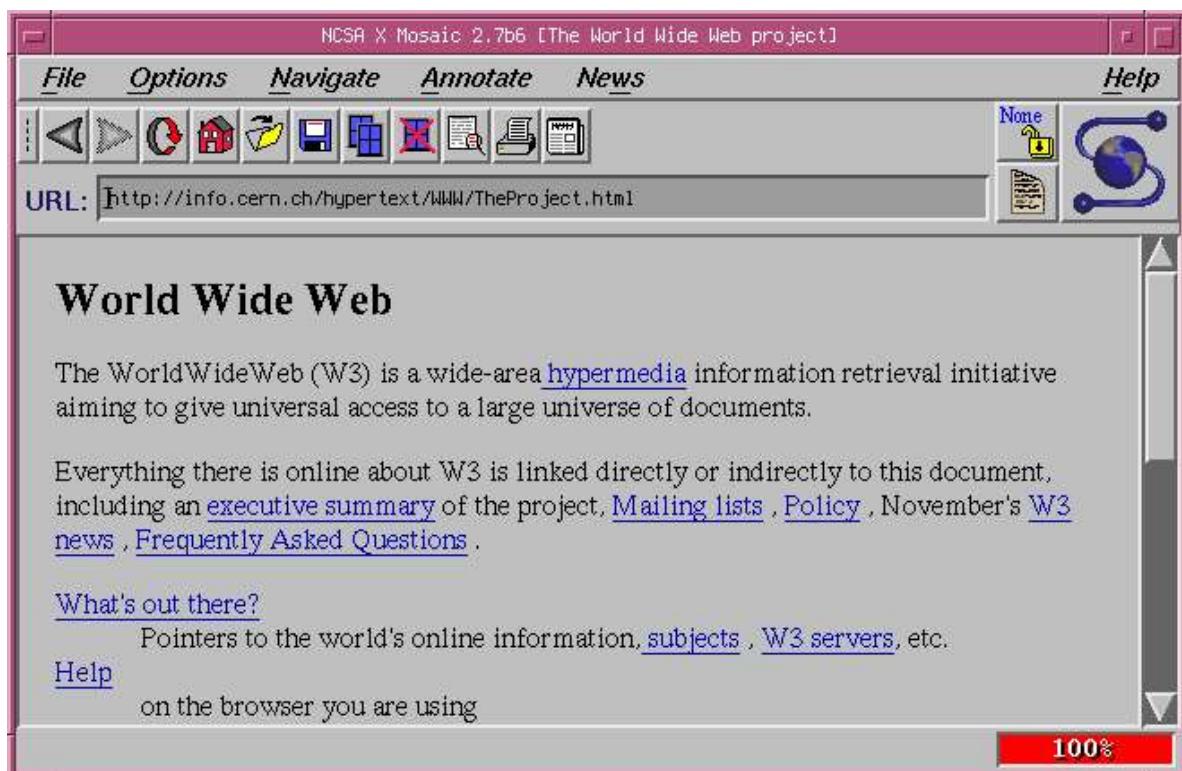
XMore



XMore is more for X.

```
# pkg install x11/xmore
```

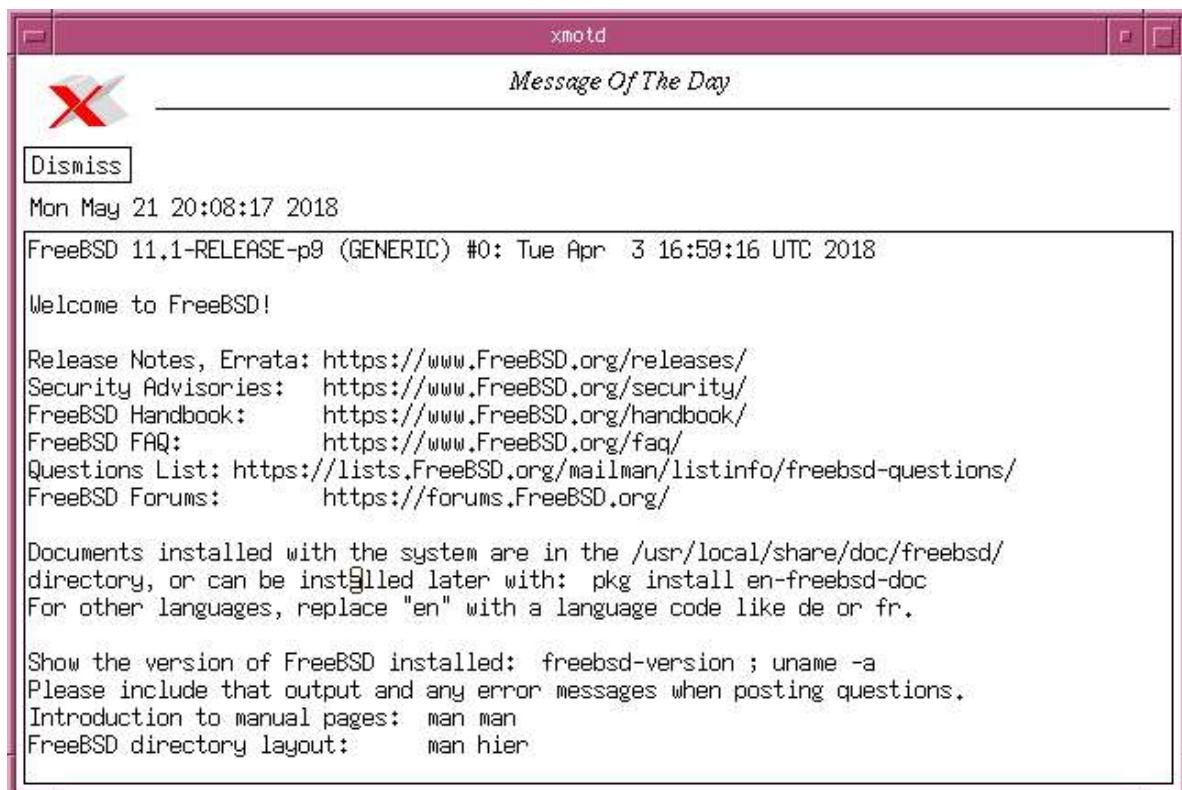
XMosaic



NCSA Mosaic, one of the first graphical web browsers, for X. The source code of version 2.7b is available on [GitHub](#).

```
# git clone https://github.com/alandipert/ncsa-mosaic
```

XMOTD



XMOTD shows the message of the day. Run it with `xmotd -always /etc/motd`. The appearance can be altered in `~/.Xdefaults`.

```
# pkg install x11/xmotd
```

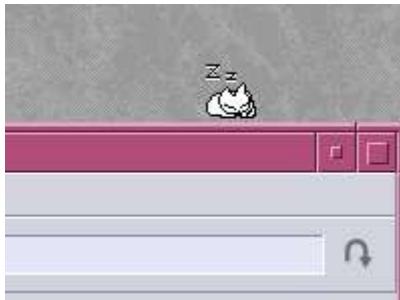
XMountains



XMountains renders a mountain scene into the root window. Also available as an XScreenSaver module.

```
# pkg install graphics/xmountains
```

XNeko



Neko (猫) is a cat chasing the mouse cursor all over the screen. Oneko is a modified version of xneko for BSD and Linux. In the port `games/oneko-sakura` several other creatures can be chosen, like tora-neko, Sakura Kinomoto, Tomoyo Daidouji, the BSD daemon, or a dog.

```
# pkg install games/xneko
```

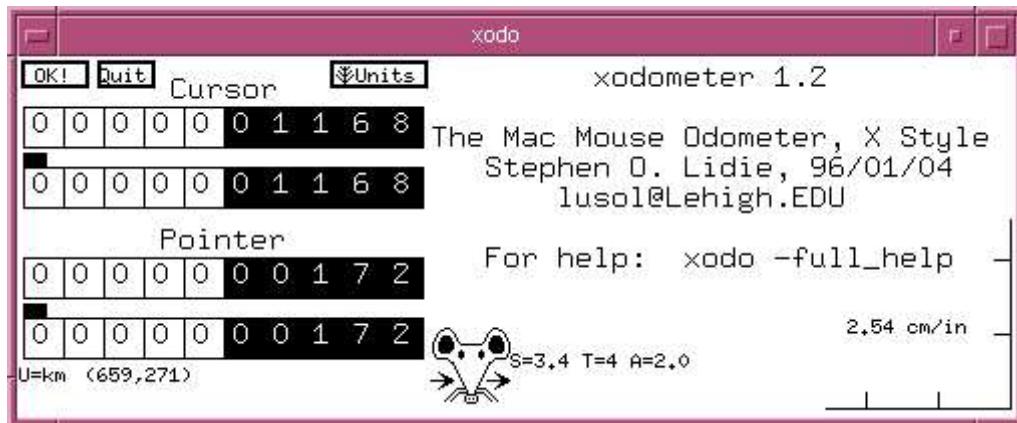
Or:

```
# pkg install games/oneko
```

Or:

```
# pkg install games/oneko-sakura
```

XOdometer



XOdometer tracks the total distance of your pointing device. The source code of the version from January 1996 is available on [GitHub](#)

```
# git clone https://github.com/interkosmos/xodo
```

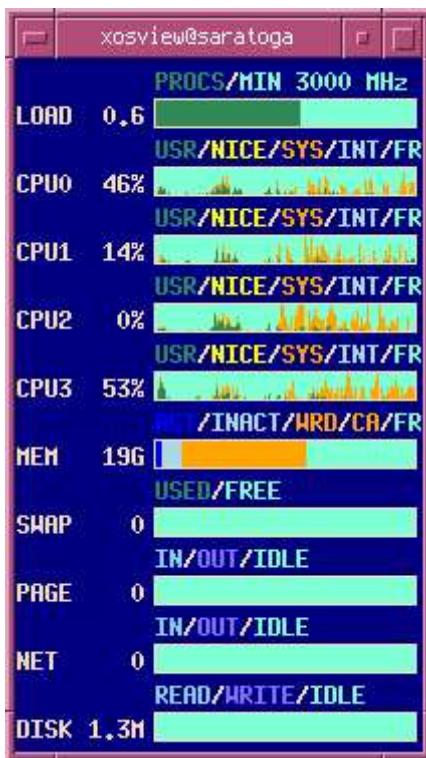
XOJ



XOJ lets the [Q. J. Simpson](#) chase relive on your X root window.

```
# pkg install games/xoj
```

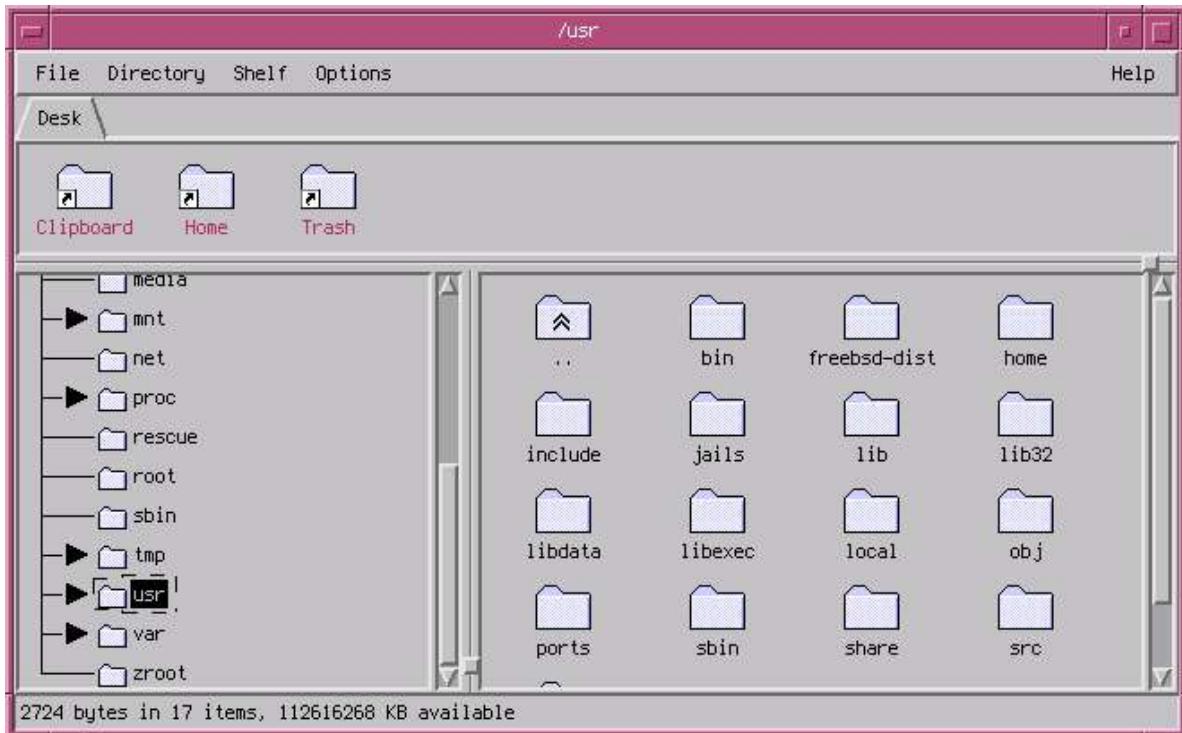
XOSView



XOSView is a visual system monitor for X11.

```
# pkg install sysutils/xosview
```

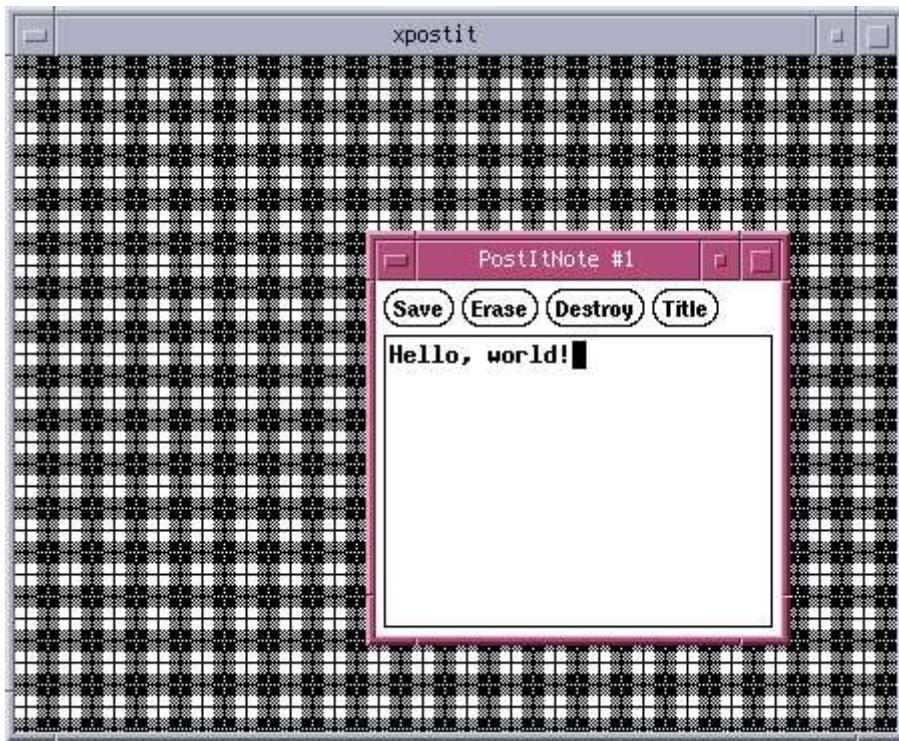
Xplore



Yet another Motif-based file manager. Prone to crashing (probably, encoding issues).

```
# pkg install x11-fm/xplore
```

XPostIt



The most ugly note taking application on earth.

```
# pkg install deskutils/xpostit
```

XRoach



XRoach displays disgusting cockroaches on your root window. These creepy crawlies scamper around until they find a window to hide under. Whenever you move or iconify a window, the exposed beetles again scamper for cover.

```
# pkg install games/xroach
```

XScreenSaver



[Jamie Zawinski](#)'s famous screen saver for X.

```
# pkg install x11/xscreensaver
```

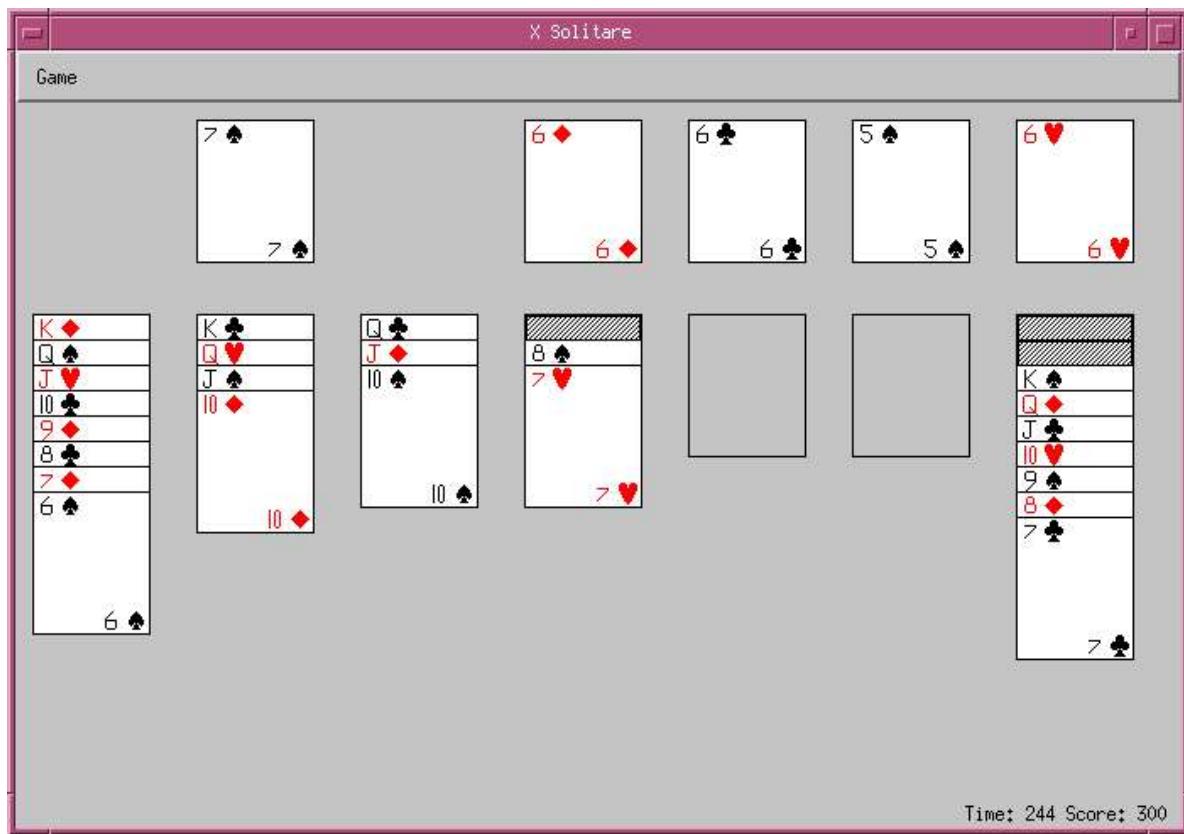
XSnow



Let it snow on your desktop. Shows snow flakes, trees, and santa.

```
# pkg install x11/xsnow
```

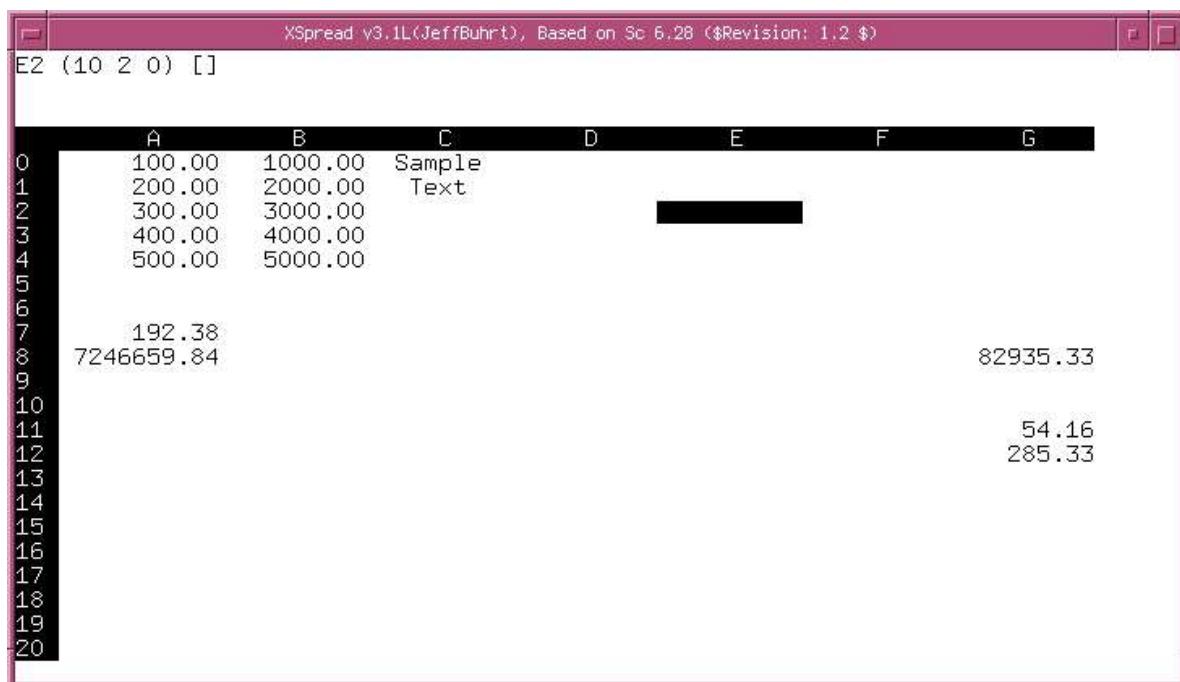
XSol



Motif-based solitaire game from 1998, similar to Klondike. Another implementation with the same name from 1987 had been [ported](#) to FreeBSD, but was later removed due to dependencies to the deprecated X10 headers. I haven't found a port of this XSol, but the game can still be compiled from [source](#):

```
$ tar xfz xsol-0.3.1.tar.gz
$ cd xsol/
$ make
$ ./xsol
```

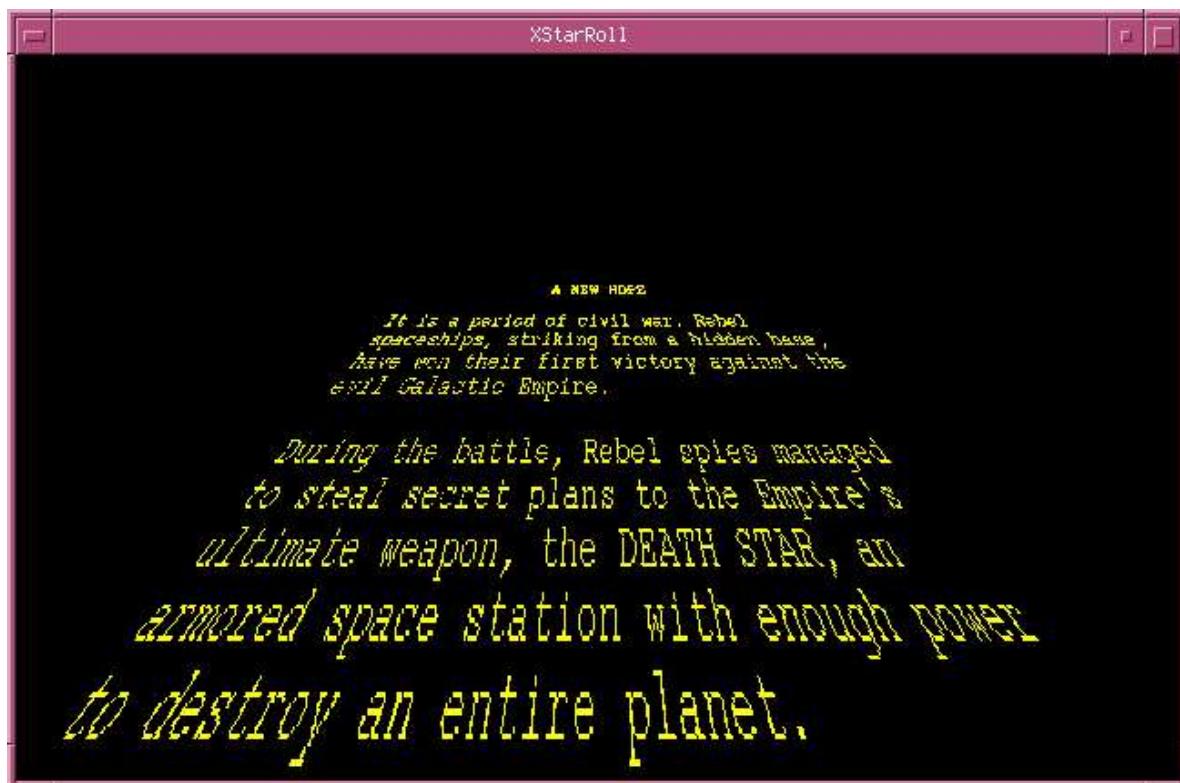
XSpread



XSpread is a simple spreadsheet application based on `math/sc`. It can be started without X11 by using the parameter `-x`.

```
# pkg install math/xspread
```

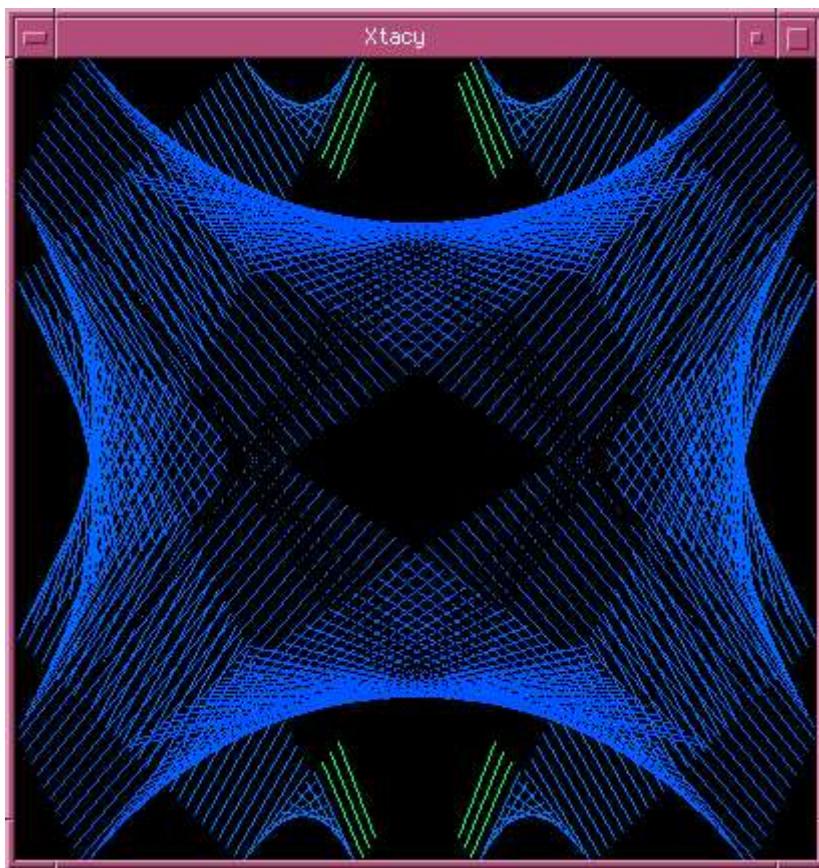
XStarRoll



[XStarRoll](#) is a simple demonstration program for X11. Letters and pixmaps fly far, far, far away, optionally on the root window. Start the program by running, for instance: `ls -al |`

```
# pkg install x11/xstarroll
```

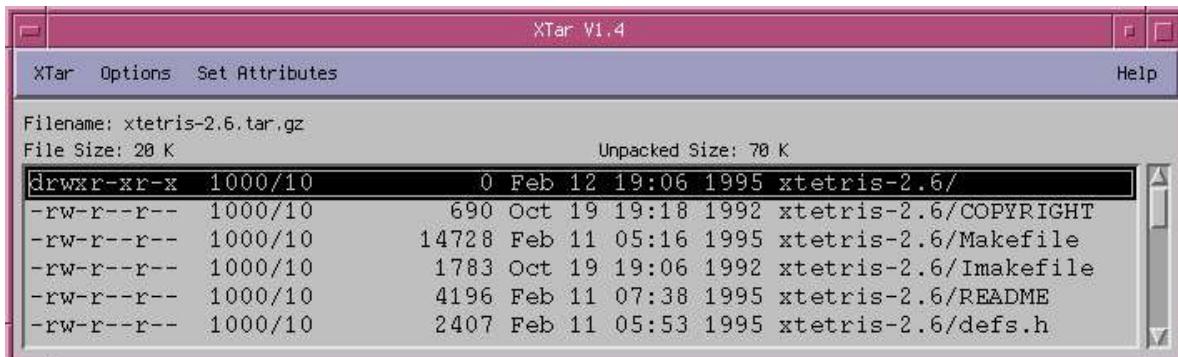
Xtacy



A trippy colour-cycling toy for X11. Displays various graphical effects and fractals, like bouncing quadrilaterals, plasma clouds, or phased sine waves. May run too fast on modern computers. See also the [official website](#).

```
# pkg install x11/xtacy
```

XTar



XTar is a Motif-based tool for viewing and manipulating (compressed) tar archives.

```
# pkg install misc/xtar
```

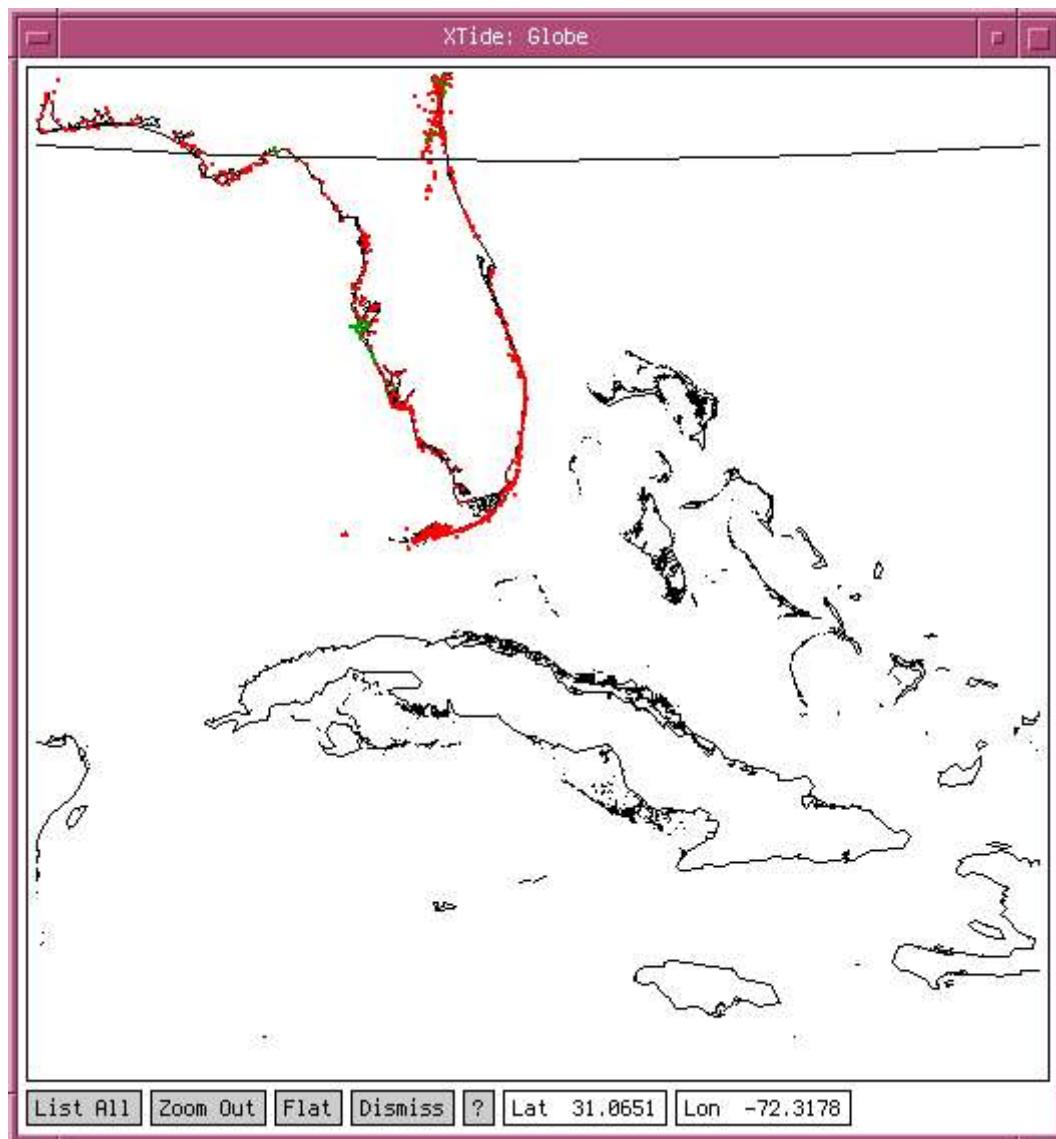
XTerm



Terminal emulator for the X Window System.

```
# pkg install x11/xterm
```

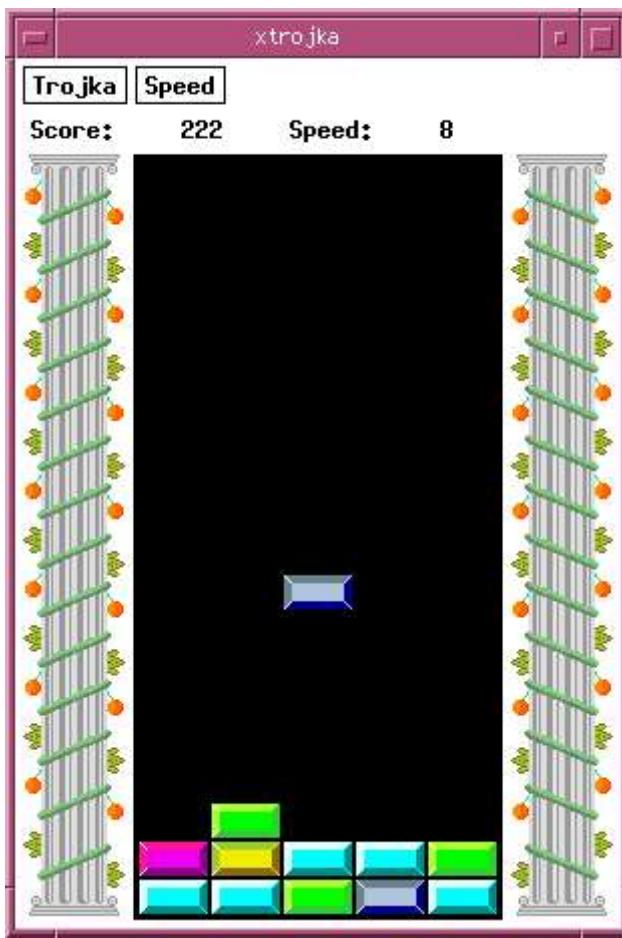
XTide



Harmonic tide clock and tide predictor for X.

```
# pkg install astro/xtide
```

XTrojka



A Tetris-like game where the player has to control and place falling blocks to create three patterns or colors in a row, horizontally or diagonally.

```
# pkg install games/xtrojka
```

Xv

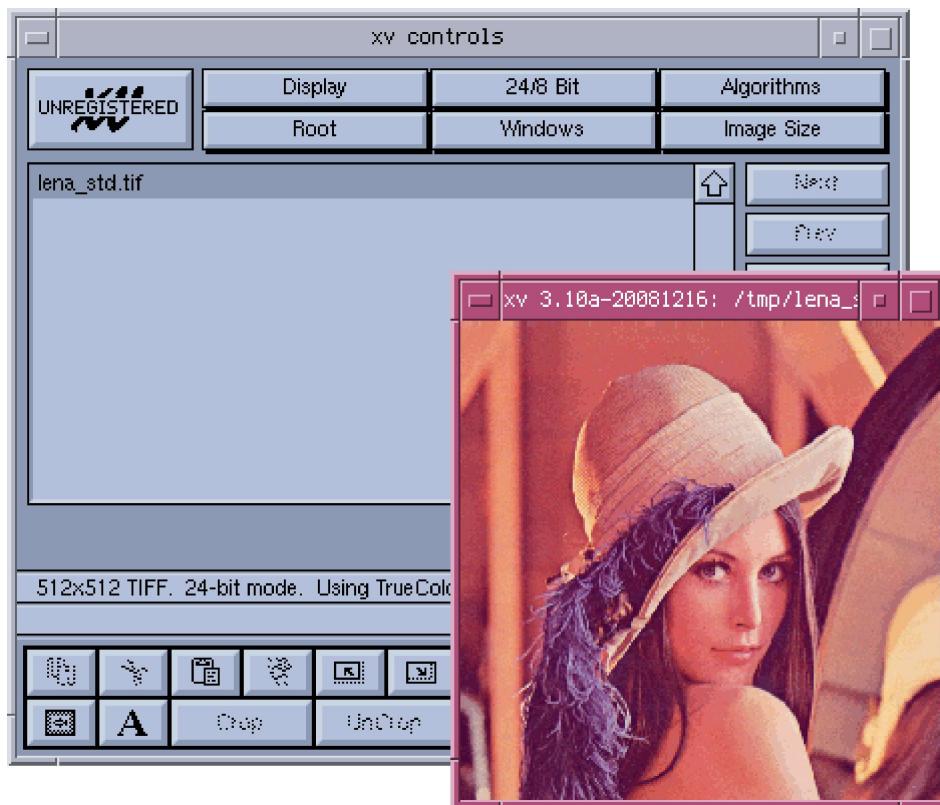


Image viewer that displays various formats.

```
# pkg install graphics/xv
```

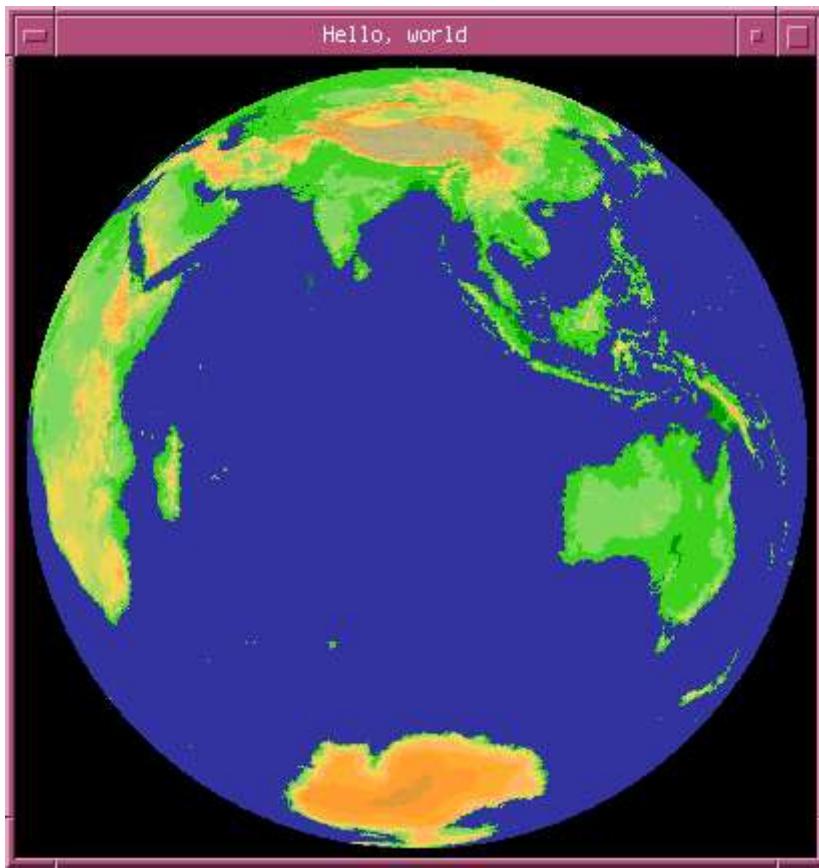
Xvkbd



Virtual keyboard for X applications.

```
# pkg install x11/xvkbd
```

XWorld



Earth as seen from the direction of the sun.

```
# pkg install astro/xworld
```

XWPE



A Borland-like integrated development environment (IDE).

```
# pkg install devel/xwpe
```

XZoom



Tool to magnify, rotate, and mirror a section of the X screen.

```
# pkg install x11/xzoom
```

Last Update: Wed, 04 May 2022 17:45:16 +0200