NAME

startx − initialize an X session

SYNOPSIS

startx [[*client*] *options . . .*] [−− [*server*] [*display*] *options . . .*]

DESCRIPTION

The **startx** script is a front end to **xinit**(1) that provides a somewhat nicer user interface for running a single session of the X Window System. It is often run with no arguments.

Arguments immediately following the *startx* command are used to start a client in the same manner as **xinit**(1). The special argument '−−' marks the end of client arguments and the beginning of server options. It may be convenient to specify server options with startx to change them on a per-session basis. Some examples of specifying server arguments follow; consult the manual page for your X server to determine which arguments are legal.

> startx −− −depth 16

> startx −− −dpi 100

> startx −− −layout Multihead

Note that in the Debian system, what many people traditionally put in the *.xinitrc* file should go in *.xsession* instead; this permits the same X environment to be presented whether *startx*, *xdm*, or *xinit* is used to start the X session. All discussion of the *.xinitrc* file in the *xinit*(1) manual page applies equally well to *.xsession*. Keep in mind that *.xinitrc* is used only by *xinit*(1) and completely ignored by *xdm*(1).

To determine the client to run, **startx** looks for the following files, in order:

> *$(HOME)/.startxrc*

> */usr/lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/sys.startxrc*

> *$(HOME)/.xinitrc*

> */etc/X11/xinit/xinitrc*

If command line client options are given, they override this behavior and revert to the **xinit**(1) behavior. To determine the server to run, **startx** first looks for a file called *.xserverrc* in the user's home directory. If that is not found, it uses the file *xserverrc* in the *xinit* library directory. If command line server options are given, they override this behavior and revert to the **xinit**(1) behavior. Users rarely need to provide a *.xserverrc* file. See the **xinit**(1) manual page for more details on the arguments.

The system-wide *xinitrc* and *xserverrc* files are found in the */etc/X11/xinit* directory.

ENVIRONMENT VARIABLES

DISPLAY
: This variable gets set to the name of the display to which clients should connect. Note that this gets *set*, not read.

XAUTHORITY
: This variable, if not already defined, gets set to *$(HOME)/.Xauthority*. This is to prevent the X server, if not given the −*auth* argument, from automatically setting up insecure host-based authentication for the local host. See the **Xserver**(1) and *Xsecurity*(7) manual pages for more information on X client/server authentication.

FILES

$(HOME)/.xinitrc
: Client to run. Typically a shell script which runs many programs in the background.

$(HOME)/.xserverrc
: Server to run. The default is *X*.

/etc/X11/xinit/xinitrc
: Client to run if the user has no *.xinitrc* file.

/etc/X11/xinit/xserverrc
: Server to run if the user has no *.xserverrc* file.

SEE ALSO
      xinit(1), **X**(7), **Xserver**(1), **Xorg**(1), **xorg.conf**(5)