

**NAME**

update-fonts-dir – compile fonts.dir files

**SYNOPSIS**

**update-fonts-dir** [*OPTION*] *directory* ...

**DESCRIPTION**

**update-fonts-dir** creates a *fonts.dir* file in an X font directory by invoking **mkfontdir**(1x) with the appropriate arguments. It is typically invoked only from the post-installation and post-removal scripts of a *package* containing fonts for the X Window System, but may be invoked at any time to reconstruct *fonts.dir* files. For each *directory*, which is simply the last component of its path (such as '75dpi' or 'misc'), **update-fonts-dir** will generate either */usr/lib/X11/fonts/directory/fonts.dir* or */usr/share/fonts/X11/directory/fonts.dir* from the *fonts.scale* and font files found within it.

This enables multiple packages to provide names for fonts in the same directory. No font package actually provides the *fonts.dir* file in the X font directory itself, so there is no danger of overwriting one package's font names with those of another.

For instance, the two packages 'xfonts-base' (real) and 'xfonts-nifty' (hypothetical) may both install fonts into the directory */usr/lib/X11/fonts/misc*, and **update-fonts-dir** will ensure that the *fonts.dir* file in that directory contains information about the font files provided by both packages.

The format of *fonts.dir* files is described in the **mkfontdir**(1x) manual page.

An example of how to use **update-fonts-dir** in package maintainer scripts is provided in the Debian Policy Manual.

**OPTIONS**

**-h, --help** displays a brief usage message and exits.

**-7, --x11r7-layout** switches the font layout to the one introduced in X11R7: fonts in */usr/share/fonts/X11/directory* (default is: fonts in */usr/lib/X11/fonts/directory*)

**OPERANDS**

**update-fonts-dir** takes one or more X font directory names to operate on as operands. Only the final path component of the directory name should be specified; e.g.,

**update-fonts-dir 75dpi**

is correct, while '**update-fonts-dir /usr/X11R6/lib/X11/fonts/75dpi**' and '**update-fonts-dir /usr/lib/X11/fonts/75dpi**' are not.

**ENVIRONMENT****COLUMNS**

indicates the width of the terminal device in character cells. This value is used for formatting diagnostic messages. If not set, the terminal is queried using **stty**(1) to determine its width. If that fails, a value of '80' is assumed.

**DIAGNOSTICS****Errors**

**usage error: one or more font directories must be provided**

**update-fonts-dir** was invoked without operands. Supply one or more X font directory names to operate on.

**usage error: unrecognized option**

**update-fonts-dir** was invoked with an unrecognized option argument. Use only the options documented in "OPTIONS", above.

**fatal error: path to X font directory must be used**

A directory name was supplied that was not an X font directory name. Supply X font directory names only.

**Warnings**

**warning: absolute path *directory* was provided**

Usage of absolute paths is deprecated. Use only the final component of the X font directory name for *directory*.

**warning: *directory* does not exist or is not a directory**

The supplied *directory* was invalid. **update-fonts-dir** skipped it.

**EXIT STATUS**

- 0      **update-fonts-dir** ran successfully.
- 1      **update-fonts-dir** experienced a fatal error; see the section on diagnostic messages above.
- 2      **update-fonts-dir** was invoked with invalid arguments.

**BUGS**

See [the Debian Bug Tracking System](https://bugs.debian.org/xfonts-utils) (<https://bugs.debian.org/xfonts-utils>). If you wish to report a bug in **update-fonts-dir**, please see [/usr/share/doc/debian/bug-reporting.txt](#) or the **report-bug**(1) command.

**AUTHOR**

**update-fonts-dir** was written by Branden Robinson.

**SEE ALSO**

**mkfontdir**(1x)