

NAME

update-fonts-alias – compile fonts.alias files

SYNOPSIS

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

DESCRIPTION

update-fonts-alias assembles a *fonts.alias* file in an X font directory using one or more alias files found in a subdirectory of */etc/X11/fonts/*. It is typically invoked only from the post-installation and post-removal scripts of a *package* containing X Window System fonts that provide aliases for their XLFD names, but may be invoked at any time to reconstruct *fonts.alias* files. For each *directory*, which is simply the last component of its path (such as '75dpi' or 'misc'), **update-fonts-alias** will assemble either */usr/lib/X11/fonts/directory/fonts.alias* or */usr/share/fonts/X11/directory/fonts.alias* from the files found in */etc/X11/fonts/directory/package.alias*.

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

For instance, the two packages 'xfonts-base' and 'xfonts-base-transcoded' may both install fonts into the directory */usr/lib/X11/fonts/misc*. They each place their *fonts.alias* files in */etc/X11/fonts/misc/xfonts-base.alias* and */etc/X11/fonts/misc/xfonts-base-transcoded.alias* (respectively). **update-fonts-alias** concatenates these two files (as well as any others that match */etc/X11/fonts/misc/*.alias*) into */usr/lib/X11/fonts/misc/fonts.alias*.

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

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

OPTIONS

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

OPERANDS

update-fonts-alias 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-alias 75dpi

is correct, while '**update-fonts-alias /usr/X11R6/lib/X11/fonts/75dpi**' and '**update-fonts-alias /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-alias was invoked without operands. Supply one or more X font directory names to operate on.

usage error: unrecognized option

update-fonts-alias 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-alias** skipped it.

EXIT STATUS

- 0 **update-fonts-alias** ran successfully.
- 1 **update-fonts-alias** experienced a fatal error; see the section on diagnostic messages above.
- 2 **update-fonts-alias** 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-alias**, please see */usr/share/doc/debian/bug-reporting.txt* or the **report-bug**(1) command.

AUTHOR

update-fonts-alias was written by Branden Robinson.

SEE ALSO

mkfontdir(1x)