
Program output monospace issue

4 messages

Avery Nortonsmith <anortonsmith@germantownfriends.org>

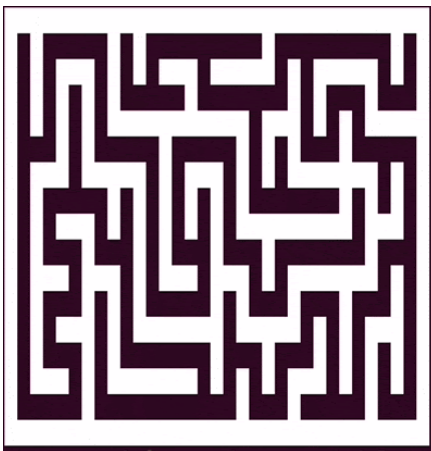
Tue, Feb 24, 2026 at 2:52 PM

To: support@pickcode.io

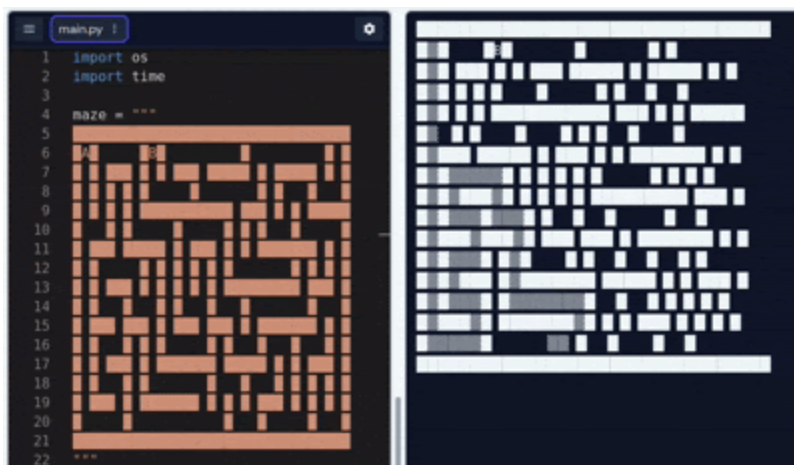
Hi Charlie,

Pickcode has been a great help to me in my classes this year! I'm running into a small issue, and wonder if there's a way to address it.

For my advanced class, I like to give students code to visualize the algorithms they're implementing. I often do these visualizations in text, using unicode box drawing characters. For example, I use the visual below for our search unit:



However, when I run the code on pickcode, the alignment of the characters in the output is off (note that the characters are aligned correctly in the editor)



The issue seems to be that the output window uses the inconsolata font, which doesn't include box drawing characters (U+2500-25FF), so those fall back to the system monospace font. The characters are then displayed in a mix of two different fonts, which messes up the spacing. The editor window uses system monospace for all the text, so it doesn't have this issue. Inconsolata might not be the best choice for displaying program output, since the font doesn't include many characters commonly used in making TUIs and other text-based visualizations.

The easiest fix would be to use a font with support for these symbols, like consolas or dejavu sans mono, for the program output (or just fall back to the system monospace font). I have no idea how disruptive making this change to

pickcode would be for existing users, but using a font with better unicode coverage could be a good idea in the long term. And it would help me right now!

Let me know if making this change might be an option!

Also, I see you're working on a new programming language for pickcode. I've done a lot of tinkering with pl projects of my own (see <https://pointless.dev/>) and am always interested in talking language design, if you're ever interested.

Best, - Avery N.

Charlie Meyer <charlie@pickcode.io>
To: Avery Nortonsmith <anortonsmith@germantownfriends.org>
Cc: support@pickcode.io

Tue, Feb 24, 2026 at 3:10 PM

Hi Avery,

Wow!! That is far and away the highest quality bug report in the history of Pickcode. We just took a look and I think the system monospace font is a great pick, it'll match the code editor window. We can get this done in the next few weeks, we'll let you know when it's ready!

Thanks,
Charlie

(The language looks pretty cool!)

[Quoted text hidden]

Charlie Meyer <charlie@pickcode.io>
To: Avery Nortonsmith <anortonsmith@germantownfriends.org>
Cc: support@pickcode.io

Wed, Feb 25, 2026 at 11:45 AM

Hi Avery,

We updated the font for the console to use the system monospace font. Let us know what you think!

Thanks,
Charlie

[Quoted text hidden]

Avery Nortonsmith <anortonsmith@germantownfriends.org>
To: Charlie Meyer <charlie@pickcode.io>

Wed, Feb 25, 2026 at 12:40 PM

Hi Charlie, I see the change and it seems to have fixed my issue. Thank you so much for the fast response!! I'm glad the bug report was helpful

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