**31.4.1. Fontconfig**

The Fontconfig font subsystem allows applications to directly access fonts on the system and use Xft or other rendering mechanisms to render Fontconfig fonts with advanced anti-aliasing. Graphical applications can use the Xft library with Fontconfig to draw text to the screen.

Over time, the Fontconfig/Xft font subsystem replaces the core X font subsystem.

**Important**

The Fontconfig font subsystem does not yet work for **OpenOffice.org**, which uses its own font rendering technology.

It is important to note that Fontconfig uses the /etc/fonts/fonts.conf configuration file, which should not be edited by hand.

**Tip**

Due to the transition to the new font system, GTK+ 1.2 applications are not affected by any changes made via the **Font Preferences** dialog (accessed by selecting System (on the panel) => **Preferences** => **Fonts**). For these applications, a font can be configured by adding the following lines to the file ~/.gtkrc.mine:

style "user-font" { fontset = "*<font-specification>*" } widget\_class "\*" style "user-font"

Replace *<font-specification>* with a font specification in the style used by traditional X applications, such as -adobe-helvetica-medium-r-normal--\*-120-\*-\*-\*-\*-\*-\*. A full list of core fonts can be obtained by running xlsfonts or created interactively using the xfontsel command.

#### 31.4.1.1. Adding Fonts to Fontconfig

Adding new fonts to the Fontconfig subsystem is a straightforward process.

1. To add fonts system-wide, copy the new fonts into the /usr/share/fonts/ directory. It is a good idea to create a new subdirectory, such as local/ or similar, to help distinguish between user-installed and default fonts.

To add fonts for an individual user, copy the new fonts into the .fonts/ directory in the user's home directory.

1. Use the fc-cache command to update the font information cache, as in the following example:
2. fc-cache *<path-to-font-directory>*

In this command, replace *<path-to-font-directory>* with the directory containing the new fonts (either /usr/share/fonts/local/ or /home/*<user>*/.fonts/).

## Tip

Individual users may also install fonts graphically, by typing fonts:/// into the **Nautilus** address bar, and dragging the new font files there.

## Important

If the font file name ends with a .gz extension, it is compressed and cannot be used until uncompressed. To do this, use the gunzip command or double-click the file and drag the font to a directory in **Nautilus**.