
Subject: Re: X window display sizes

Posted by [Liam Gumley](#) on Fri, 19 Nov 1999 08:00:00 GMT

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your name wrote:

> There was an earlier question about finding the size of the display
> screen. I am familiar with David's answer:-
>
> DEVICE, GET_SCREEN_SIZE = My_screen_size
>
> However, I am running under OpenVMS, CDE, Motif with X-windows. In my
> application, I create displays on a number of display devices using the
> DISPLAY_NAME keyword to WIDGET_BASE.
>
> Does anyone know how I can find the size of these (remote) displays?
> Some of these displays are PCs with an X-window emulator, so the
> resolution may be changed by the users without the knowledge of the
> system.

I don't know of any way to do this using IDL commands. The only information you can return about a widget on a remote display seems to be the geometry of the widget itself, e.g.

```
base = widget_base(display_name='merlin.gecm.com:0')
text = widget_text(base, value='Hello world')
widget_control, base, /realize
info = widget_info(base, /geometry)
print, info
```

However you can find the remote display dimensions using a spawn command, e.g.

```
display = 'merlin.hp.com:0'
command = string(display, $ ; csh syntax
  format='("setenv DISPLAY ", a, " ; xdpinfo | fgrep dimensions)")
command = string(display, $ ; ksh syntax
  format='("export DISPLAY=", a, " ; xdpinfo | fgrep dimensions)")
spawn, command, result
print, result
  dimensions: 1280x1024 pixels (361x288 millimeters)
```

I'll leave it as an exercise for the reader to extract the dimension values from the result string.

Caveats:

- (1) This only works if your host system (where IDL is running) is UNIX.
- (2) If you don't have permission to create graphics on the remote display, the spawn command hangs (at least it does on my Linux box,

where the remote display is an NT box running XWin-32).

Cheers,

Liam.

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