Subject: X-windows fonts

Posted by thompson on Wed, 19 Feb 1992 21:32:00 GMT

I wanted to use a font with fixed spacing for an IDL text widget, because the
default proportional spacing causes tables and the like to not line up
correctly. However, it appears that Sun workstations and VAX/VMS computers use
different conventions for how fonts are named. For instance, the font that
appears on my Sun as

 -dec-terminal-medium-r-normal--14-140-75-75-c-80-iso8859-1

appears on the VAX as

 -DEC-Terminal-Medium-R-Normal--14-140-75-75-c-8-iso8859-1

Not only is the case different, but -80- on one computer is -8- on the other.
An additional complication is the fact that the important thing is not which
computer is running IDL, but which computer is providing the X-windows display
server. That makes it very difficult to understand how to program IDL to
select an appropriate font automatically.

Does anybody know how to find out what fonts are available from inside IDL, or
test for the existence of a font? It would have to be something that worked in
both Unix and VMS. Alternatively, does anybody know any fonts that *ALWAYS*
work?

Thank you,

Bill Thompson