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Subject: Re: Linux Font Warning  
Posted by [Karl Schultz](#) on Fri, 30 Sep 2005 17:34:42 GMT  
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On Fri, 30 Sep 2005 11:13:46 -0500, Michael Wallace wrote:

> This isn't a big deal, but sometimes when I run IDL commands that bring  
> up a GUI, I get a warning about the fonts used. I just got this when I  
> ran `ascii_template()`.  
>  
> Warning: Cannot convert string "courier\*12" to type FontStruct  
>  
>  
> I've seen this thing happen before and it doesn't concern me at all, but  
> just wondering why I see it. It's curiosity more than anything else.  
>

That's coming from an X toolkit, most likely Xt. You've got a resource set someplace that is referencing this font and that font isn't available or there is some other problem with it.

You can issue:

```
xrdb -query
```

to see what resources are in your resource database. Chances are this font name is used to set one of the resources. The resource name would be a big clue. But in general, you then would have to hunt around for the place/file that is setting the resource, and that can be tricky because it could be in any one of a number of places. There could be system-wide resource files, application-specific resource files, and your own resource files. If the resource is in a place that you can't change (or find), then you could try setting it yourself, overriding it, in your own resources to a value that works. That should get rid of the message.

Karl

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Subject: Re: Linux Font Warning  
Posted by [James Kuyper](#) on Fri, 30 Sep 2005 18:10:03 GMT  
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Karl Schultz wrote:

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> resources to a value that works. That should get rid of the message.
```

Note: you can use `xfonstsel` to find out what fonts are available on your system.

It's possible that what it should have been was `-*-courier-**-**-12-**-**-**-*`. If you're willing to risk ambiguity, you can abbreviate it. On my system, `xlsfonts` `"*courier*12-*` lists the same 8 fonts as the full specification. However, the font specification can't be abbreviated to `courier*12`.

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