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Sending SunView to MacX Server

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Article Change History

01/15/93 - REVIEWED

- For technical accuracy.

TOPIC -----

I was trying to install MacX. Everything went fine until I tried to have my Sun computer send "SunView" to my MacX server. It didn't work. Instead of the client appearing on my screen, it showed the console screen. I tried the same thing with a VT100 terminal, and the same thing happened.

I know SunView is a "windowing" environment, but is it an X Window System? Isn't Sun's X Window System called OpenLook? Can SunView be a X client?

DISCUSSION -----

SunView is Sun's older window system and is not an X client. Together, SunTools and SunView provide functionality similar to that provided by X Windows and X Windows-based applications -- that is, SunView provides a programming interface and basic windowing capabilities similar to X Windows. But this system is NOT X Windows, it is Sun's proprietary windowing environment, and is best thought of as a competitor to X Windows.

X is now the default window system shipping with new products (as of July 1990). Previously X was an unbundled product, available free from MIT or available from Sun for a media and documentation charge.

XNeWS is Sun's X server that interprets X protocol and PostScript (NeWS protocol). OpenLook is a functional specification for the "look and feel" of the user interface (by AT&T). X clients generally use X toolkits (like XView, XT+, OLIT, and so on), but they could simply make Xlib calls.

Thus, SunView is not an X Window System nor an X client; you can't display it on MacX. If the Sun machine has the Xlib and applications, you should be able to start one using a command similar to:

/usr/bin/xcalc -display mac:0,0

where "mac" is the Macintosh node name defined in the host's file.
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