

1. Identification of the proposed change

1.1. Title

Undefined devicekeyword

1.2. MDC Proposer and Sponsor

This proposal originates from Ed de Moel.

The document editor is Ed de Moel.

Motions regarding the status of this document will be made by Taskgroup 9 (General Device Issues) of Subcommittee 12 (Environment).

Ed de Moel can be reached at:

· 800 Nelson Street, Rockville, Maryland 20850-2051

· home phone: 301 762 8333

· telefax: 301 762 8999

· email: demael@radix.net

1.3. Motion

No Motion.

1.4. History of MDC actions

| Date | Document | Action |
|----------------|----------------------|--|
| September 1999 | X11/1999-2 | Final write-up |
| September 1998 | X11/SC12/1998-14 | Presented for consideration as MDC Type A, accepted 14:0:2 |
| June 1998 | X11/SC12/TG9/1998-11 | Presented for consideration as SC#12 Type A, accepted 9:0:3. |
| March 1998 | X11/SC12/TG9/1998-1 | Presented for consideration as SC#12 Type A; failed 7:8:2. |
| September 1997 | X11/SC12/TG9/97-6 | Initial presentation. Accepted as SC#12 Type B, 9:2:6. |

1.5. Dependencies

None.

2. Justification of Proposed Change

2.1. Needs

Currently, there is no error code for the situation where a reference is made to a devicekeyword that is not defined in the current mnemonicspace.

2.2. Existing Practice in Area of the Proposed Change

Each implementation issues a private error code.

3. Description of the proposed change

3.1. General Description of the Proposed Change

This proposal defines a standard error code for the described situation.

3.2. Annotated Examples of Use

None.

3.3. Formalization

In Section I, clause 8.2.2, CLOSE command, add a paragraph between "... with implementor interpretation." and "Each designated device":

When a deviceparam is encountered that contains a devicekeyword for which there is no defined meaning in the current mnemonicspace, the implementation may or may not cause an error to happen. If an error occurs, the ecode will be M109.

When a deviceparam is encountered that contains a deviceattribute for which there is no defined meaning in the current mnemonicspace, the implementation may or may not cause an error to happen. If an error occurs, the ecode will be M109.

4. Implementation impacts

4.1. Impact on Existing User Practices and Investments

Standardization of a possible error condition.

4.2. Impact on Existing Vendor Practices and Investments

A minor change to insert the standardized error code into a situation where an error is already generated. This proposal will have a larger impact for those implementations that ignore invalid devicekeywords.

4.3. Techniques and Costs for Compliance Verification

To be supplied.

4.4. Legal considerations

None.

5. Closely related standards activities

5.1. Other X11 Proposals (Type A or Type B) Under Consideration

None.

5.2. Other Related Standards Efforts

None.

5.3. Recommendations for Co-ordinating Liaison

None.

6. List of Associated Documents

None.

7. Issues, Pros and Cons, and Discussion

7.1. September 1997, Chicago, Illinois

Initial presentation by task group.

Pro: 1. Standardized current behavior of some implementations.

Con: 1. May break other implementations

7.2. 21 March 1998, Buckhead, Georgia

Discussion centered on the desirability of a “forced error”. There was considerable support for making the error optional. The document will be changed to make the occurrence of the error optional, but to standardize the error code.

Pro: 1. Standardizes error code

Con: 1. May break other implementations

2. Condition causing error is too stringent.

7.3. 27 June 1998, Waltham, Massachusetts

Approved as SC/12 Type A. One editorial change made in section 3.1 (removal of *Mnn*).

Pro: 1. Standardizes error code.

No cons raised.

7.4. 19 September 1998, Seattle, Washington

Approved as MDC Type A.

Pro: 1. Standardizes error code.

No cons raised.