2 How to access X

One of the principal difficulties with X is that it is so configurable that most tasks can be achieved in several different ways. To "just use X", therefore, a basic knowledge of *all* these ways is required unless the potential user knows in advance how his or her system has been set up and will never use any other system. This is nowhere more important than in starting up X in the first place. This section contains some notes on a few of the more common systems.

2.1 On a personal workstation starting with X running

Very many X-capable workstations start X at boot time and display a login window. Simply type in your system userid and password on the two fields to be logged in and have X started for you. This is the easiest system to have because all the configuration work is done in the boot sequence to start up X.

2.2 On a personal workstation starting without X running

If your system has an X-capable console but starts up in text mode then you need to do two things:

1. Make sure the X binaries are on your PATH.
   - On many systems: `/usr/X11/bin`
   - On a Linux system: `/usr/X386/bin`
   - On a Sun running OpenWindows: `/usr/openwin/bin`
2. Enter the relevant command to start up X. Typically, this is a command called `startx`, but on a Sun running OpenWindows, it is a command called `openwin`.

2.3 On a dedicated X-terminal

If an X-terminal is dedicated to a single machine then typically it displays a window identical to the login window described above in section 2.1.

If the X-terminal is client to a collection of machines (*e.g.* the C.U.S. X-terminals used on Cockcroft 3 then there is an earlier phase where a particular machine must be chosen from a list. This list is presented as a menu window called a "chooser".

2.4 On an IBM PC on the PWF

The Computing Service provides a package called Vista-eXceed/W for running on the PWF IBM PCs under Windows. Details are available in the CS leaflet M520: "Using Vista-eXceed on the PWF".