

Getting ModelSim fonts to be readable: a guide

by Justin Andrienas

If you've gotten ModelSim running on Linux, you may open up a VHDL file and find the font size is for ants, and no amount of mucking about in the settings will fix it. I tested these solutions on Xubuntu 18.04 running Quartus 18.1.

- 1) Open a terminal.
- 2) Open the ModelSim configuration file:

```
gedit ~/.modelsim
```

- 3) Look for the statement

```
PrefDefault = [...a lot of other stuff...] textFontV2 {FontName 12}
```

- 4) Change the 12 to -12.
- 5) Save and exit.
- 6) Restart Modelsim.

If this doesn't work, the alternative method is to mash "Ctrl" + "+" every time you open a source file to zoom the text, but this is really annoying, and in my case works only with the + key on my numpad for some reason.

Things that did not work:

- Manually changing the default font size in the ModelSim GUI
- Disabling the "Custom DPI Setting" in Xubuntu's Settings>Appearance>Fonts

Acknowledgements: Wtskwz, Alexey Khalov, Mike Wolak, and Fritz on StackExchange. They did all the real work.