

**NAME**

**coffee** [ new | half | ugh | empty ] | x | [ xview-options ]

**DESCRIPTION**

*Coffee* is a network-based coffee pot monitor, analogous to faces, vismon, et. al. It displays the general state of the coffee pot, such as full, half-full, old-and-bitter coffee, or completely empty. The present version is manually operated with timeouts.

The program can be invoked in a command-line environment with one of the arguments **full**, **half**, **ugh empty** or **status**. These respectively set the status to full, half, old-and-undrinkable, or empty, and display the status.

If invoked with any other argument, the program creates an X Window System icon displaying one of the four modes shown above; in this case, all arguments are passed to the X library (currently XView) so you can specify -display xxx:0, -WP x y, etc. (it is safe to say "coffee X" or similar if you want the display on localhost:0). Opening the icon gives you a set of buttons that let you select the appropriate mode; the window auto-iconifies after you select a mode.

If invoked with no argument, it prints a status message.

**FILES**

The path to STATFILE is hardcoded in the coffee.h file. It normally refers to an NFS-mounted file in a pub-writable directory.

**HISTORY**

First (XView) version written by Ian Darwin, SoftQuad Inc., Toronto, August, 1992.

**BUGS**

A broadcast RPC mechanism would have been better than a status file.

There is no way to indicate "coffee is made but we're out of milk."

There should be an odor sensor which would indicate when the coffee has turned bitter. Or a weight sensor, and a gauge display, to indicate exact fullness. These will be incorporated in a future release, shortly after the Brooklyn Bridge changes hands.

There ought to be a TimBits option. – rph

You tend to drink more coffee when you can see whenever a fresh pot is available. Such is the price of omniscience.

Drinking coffee during pregnancy will make the baby jittery.

Brewed coffee always smells better than it tastes.