

Re: The crippled resurrection of said etch.

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Source: <http://linux.derkeiler.com/Mailing-Lists/Debian/2006-10/msg02708.html>

- *From:* Paul E Condon <pecondon@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Wed, 25 Oct 2006 15:54:01 -0600
-

On Wed, Oct 25, 2006 at 12:44:54PM -0400, hendrik@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx wrote:

On Wed, Oct 25, 2006 at 11:58:51AM -0400, hendrik@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx wrote:

On Wed, Oct 25, 2006 at 08:26:20AM -0700, Andrew Sackville-West wrote:

On Wed, Oct 25, 2006 at 11:18:40AM -0400, hendrik@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx wrote:

On Wed, Oct 25, 2006 at 08:03:58AM -0700, Andrew Sackville-West wrote:

On Wed, Oct 25, 2006 at 08:52:08AM -0400, hendrik@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx wrote:

But
only
after
you
have
finished
investigating
what
is
causing
the
badness
in
the
current
install.

If I knew

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how to do
this (besides
a few
variations
on
rebooting
and
fsck) I
wouldn't be
considering
a reinstall.

I assume that all your efforts
so far are producing no
results.... Do
you have any older kernels
on the etch system that you
can try? Maybe
there's a kernel bug that
you're hitting (some random
combination of
kernel version and
hardware). If you can boot
an older kernel that
might help. If you don't
have one, and want to try,
you could chroot
into the system and install
an older kernel maybe (from
debian
snapshots?). I only suggest
this because I had a booting
problem after
a kernel upgrade on an older
machine (300 mhz celeron).
I just went
back to an old kernel and
stayed there.

Anyway. I'm concerned that
you've got some problem
that will come back
after the reinstall. Or maybe,
by reinstalling, you'll
leapfrog the
problem, I suppose.
Regardless, if you can't
figure out what the
problem is you may have

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trouble avoiding it in the
future.

Just a hunch, did you
change kernel architecture?
to the wrong one
accidently perhaps?

I reran lilo on the sarge system.
Rebooted to etch.
It got a lot firther than last time, but after a
while reached the black
screen of death.

Rebooted to etch in maintenance mode.
Got to maintenance mode. Didn't know what
else to do, do did
dpkg-reconfigure xserver-xorg (or was it
xorg-server?)

Accepted all the defaults (probably taken
from my old cofig file)

checked the dates on /etc/X11/xorg*

```
hendrik@lovesong:~$ ls -l  
/etc/X11/xorg.conf*  
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 3177 2006-09-15  
06:32 /etc/X11/xorg.conf  
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 3079 2006-07-02  
12:42 /etc/X11/xorg.conf~  
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 3473 2006-06-07  
18:38  
/etc/X11/xorg.conf.200606071838  
hendrik@lovesong:~$
```

All old dates, so presumably nothing was
actually changed.

rebooted into etch, trying to see what was on
the screen immediately
before the black screen of death.
Saw it was starting gdm.
Then the screen went black, and then almost
immediately X and gdm
started coming up.

Now mailing this from ssh within a terminal
window within icewm within
gdm.

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Whatever was wrong? Or is this a fluke? I'll try rebooting again and see if success is consistent.

well, that's all good news. sounds like lilo got borked there and that was your problem. THE X problem was surely unrelated, but may have come from the same upgrade. I have to say, it must be nice to have two installs on the same machine as it makes diagnosing really easy... I may look into it: just a minimal install of sarge on a small partition just so that I have something bootable and usable if I bork my sid system.

As far as the X problem, who knows. its a finicky thing sometimes, right?

It survived another reboot. I'll tentatively consider it fixed.

Four more reboots, one successful.
It seems to be a problem starting gdm.
It tell sme it's starting gdm,
then that it'snot starting kdm because it's not the default,
then that it's not starting (presumably another *dm) because it's not the default

Not starting the other *dm that you have installed, and telling you, is a standard feature of a well functioning Debian. Not to worry about that. But black screen is, of course, bad news.

then the black screen of death, preventing me from reading which other *dm it was considering.
Could it be that the *dm is interfering with gdm starting up?
Maybe it's whatever it does *after* trying its hand with the *dm'a that is the culprit? Anyone know what that is?
Should I try making another *dm the default?
Should I try purging the other *dm's?
Should I try purging gdm?

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Should I try running a general update of everything just in case?

When I mentioned re-installing etch 'after you have finished debugging' etch, I might better have said 'when you decide further efforts are futile'. But I have no feeling for when it becomes futile. I generally give up rather easily. I'm a coward, but I don't recommend it, I just am.

-- hendrik

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with a subject of "unsubscribe". Trouble? Contact listmaster@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

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