

## Re: Advice for troubleshooting X (total screen loss) -- Newb Alert

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*Source:* <http://linux.derkeiler.com/Mailing-Lists/Debian/2008-06/msg02231.html>

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  - *Date:* Sun, 29 Jun 2008 19:35:54 -0400
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You can also see that I've disabled glx output and restricted screen resolution to 1024x768 or lower (non-widescreen resolutions) in the hope that this might help, but no luck so far.

I should've been clearer -- I made those changes through dpkg-reconfigure. (I've grown quite comfortable with the menu interface to Xorg.conf in the last 24 hours!)

And, BTW, you're using etch, right?

Correct.

lspci shows one VGA-compatible device, the line is:

```
01:00.0 VGA compatible controller: nVidia Corporation Unknown device 0402 (rev a1)
```

I should've looked harder at the Xorg.0.log I got when I ran with the VGA drivers; it told me directly that the VGA driver does not support 24-bit color depth, so it unloaded itself. I set this back down to 8-bit color, and just like that I can load up a minimal gnome desktop.

Sadly it has decided the correct resolution is 320x200, which is not yet very useful --

I can't even see to reposition any of the control panels -- when I was hoping once I got a minimal setup I could use that as a base to finish configuring the nVidia-supplied

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drivers. But at least this is wonderful progress! Thank you!

On that note --

You could also try if you can install the newest nvidia driver on Etch

with nvidia's own installer script:

[http://www.nvidia.com/object/linux\\_display\\_amd64\\_173.14.09.html](http://www.nvidia.com/object/linux_display_amd64_173.14.09.html)

It might help if you get a newer kernel from [www.backports.org](http://www.backports.org) first. Also make sure that you purge (not just remove) the Debian nvidia packages before you try this.

I had originally tried to run nvidia's installer, but it complained that it would have to recompile the kernel with its own hooks to load the nvidia driver. So I downloaded and gunzipped the kernel source package, but nVidia's script couldn't find version.h under the directory where source was installed, so I eventually gave up and tried what was supposed to be "the debian way". (Sorry, that's rather inexact -- I did this several days ago and it was before I started taking careful notes of exactly every command I was running.)

I'll mess around with this a bit more and then report back.

Best,  
Jeff