

Re: Handling multiple video devices

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- *From:* Nigel Henry <cave.dnb@xxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Wed, 7 Mar 2007 23:46:48 +0100
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On Wednesday 07 March 2007 21:13, Anne Wilson wrote:

I have three video devices that may be in use at any time on this box. One is a pci video-capture card, so always present. The other two are webcam and usb tv tuner. The problem is that every package that can handle either the webcam or the tv tuner looks for video0.

tvtime's menu has an entry for changing the input, and I thought that should do it, but absolutely nothing happens if I click on that. I haven't had any more luck with amsn + webcam either – as long as it gets video0 it is happy, but it won't talk to anything else.

There must be some way to configure these to talk to video*. I've had some luck with getting udev to track the webcam connection, so if I could point amsn to /dev/webcam, that would be solved. Similarly I could build a rule for the tuner, but it's no good if I can't get the software to use it.

Has anyone managed this sort of situation?

Anne

Hi Anne. This probably going to be a totally useless reply, but, how are the 3 devices setup at the moment? I think you have Xawtv. Try running xawtv -hwscan to see how the video devices are setup in /dev.

With xawtv I can specify which device to use when I launch it. For example my TV tuner card uses /dev/video0, so that is just launched as xawtv. If I want to use xawtv to access the webcam, I set the command on the desktop launcher as, xawtv -device /dev/video1, and then get the webcam showing on xawtv. I don't know much about TVtime, but it may be worth launching it specifying the device it should use.

Amsn is a problem, as it just looks in /dev/video. If you mess with udev, and create symlinks (/dev/webcam) Amsn is totally lost. Can't see the wood for the trees.

My TVtuner card uses /dev/video0, and the webcam (ov511) uses /dev/video1, except on FC5 with the 2.6.18 kernel, where it's a bit hit and miss in which

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order they are loaded. I've used the webcam using /dev/video1 while talking to you on Amsn, so I don't think there is a problem with Amsn, as long as it can find a webcam device in /dev/video, whether that's /dev/video0, 1, 2, or 3.

I don't if this is any help, but on FC2 the USB webcam was being given /dev/video0, and the TVtuner card wasn't being loaded. The TVtuner card should be loaded as /dev/video0, and the webcam as /dev/video1, but that was an FC2 problem. USB starts early in the boot process, and USB devices were loaded before PCI stuff.

This is what I did on FC2 in /etc/rc.d/rc.local to fix it.

```
/sbin/modprobe -r ov511 (remove webcam using /dev/video0)
```

```
/sbin/modprobe tda9887 port2=0 pal=I (load TVtuner card to /dev/video0)
```

```
/sbin/modprobe bttv tuner=38 automute=0 (more TVcard stuff)
```

```
#install bttv /sbin/modprobe tda9887 port2=0 pal=I; /sbin/modprobe  
--ignore--install bttv
```

```
/sbin/modprobe ov511 force-palette=15 (load webcam to /dev/video1)
```

It may be worth trying something like this. I don't think there is a problem with the webcam, so that can be loaded last, as Amsn is just looking in /dev/video for a webcam device. The TVtuner card I don't know about, but may be worth loading this first so that it grabs /dev/video0, especially as you have problems with TVtime. Load the driver for the PCI video-capture card second, and the driver for the webcam third.

If all 3 drivers are already loaded you will have to do a modprobe -r for each one in /etc/rc.d/rc.local before modprobing them in the order you want to have them loaded.

Personally I think this is a bit of a hack, but it has worked to get the TVtuner card, and the webcam driver loaded in the correct order on FC2.

All the best.

Nigel.

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fedora-list mailing list
fedora-list@xxxxxxxxxxx

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