

## Re: fedora and notebooks? [OT]

---

*Source:* <http://linux.derkeiler.com/Mailing-Lists/Fedora/2007-12/msg02063.html>

---

- *From:* John Summerfield <[debian@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:debian@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Fri, 14 Dec 2007 08:28:41 +0900
- 

Dean S. Messing wrote:

John Summerfield wrote:

powerful "undo" features of emacs. Solution: thumbs up!

: : Touchpads are misnamed; they don't require touch. There's some kind of : proximity detector involved.

I believe it is a capacitive sensor and depends on the Dielectric Constant of the material between the pad and one's finger. I just did several little experiments to check. (I'm a scientist, after all :-)

grumble grumble[1]

First, I took my finger and put it really close to the pad w/o touching it. No cursor motion. (Air has a small dielectric constant.) Then I took a thin piece of paper and tried to move the cursor by sliding finger over paper. No go unless I pressed very hard. Paper is pretty incompressible so I don't think it was that my finger was getting closer. Rather the surface area of the contact was increasing so the capacitive effect was greater the harder I pressed.

Interestingly, through a much thicker envelope glue label, my finger had no trouble moving the cursor at normal pressure. My guess is that the glue in between the label and the backing has a high Dielec. Const.

Finally, I used my finger nail. Being an insulator, it had no effect even pressing hard.

I previously test on a G4 17" powerbook running OS X (I don't recall whether Panther or Tiger). I could move the cursor without touching the touchpad.

Re: fedora and notebooks? [OT]

Now I have a G4 15" powerbook running Tiger. I can (just) touch the touchpad, sliding across the surface with my finger, not moving the cursor.

Non-ferrous metals seem to work much the same as fingers. Side of SATA cable works. Plastics (polystyrene packaging, Faber-Castell fluoro pen) and cardboard don't work. Neither does some insulated wire (about the size of wirewrap wire).

[1]

Daughter was a (just-graduated) scientist, working as a Research Assistant on a project involving Alzheimer's at <http://www.mhri.edu.au>. The lead got his Ph D, the grant ran out and she needed a job. She got one, doing data entry for an insurance company. She's doing well for herself in insurance (she talks to the board), but I wish the country paid its scientists well, we need science more than we need good insurance professionals.

--

Cheers  
John

-- spambait

1aaaaaaa@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx Z1aaaaaaa@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

-- Advice

<http://webfoot.com/advice/email.top.php>

<http://www.catb.org/~esr/faqs/smart-questions.html>

<http://support.microsoft.com/kb/555375>

You cannot reply off-list:-)

--

fedora-list mailing list

fedora-list@xxxxxxxxxxx

To unsubscribe: <https://www.redhat.com/mailman/listinfo/fedora-list>