

## Re: ioctl number 0xF3

**Source:** <http://linux.derkeiler.com/Mailing-Lists/Kernel/2004-05/4496.html>

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**From:** Thomas Winischhofer ([thomas\\_at\\_winischhofer.net](mailto:thomas_at_winischhofer.net))

**Date:** 05/22/04

Date: Sat, 22 May 2004 17:37:57 +0200  
To: Francois Romieu <[romieu@fr.zoreil.com](mailto:romieu@fr.zoreil.com)>

Francois Romieu wrote:

>*He can surely tell when an egg stinks. However Arjan is not a chicken.*

I didn't mean that as any sort of insult. I am just tired of the XFree86 people telling me "implement a generic interface". I write one single driver and want the users of this driver to have some sort of comfort. Waiting until someone comes up with some generic solution (for a design of which I don't have time nor the required knowledge about a zillion different systems) I am old and grey.

> *Thomas Winischhofer <[thomas@winischhofer.net](mailto:thomas@winischhofer.net)> :*  
>>*Is 64 out of, what's that, 65536 too much to ask? Well, I could live*  
>>*with 32 as well...*  
>  
> *Reserving a generous ioctl range without any clear interface will make*  
> *some people nervous. If you can not specify the interface now, try to*  
> *separate the generic/specific part of it and use sub-ioctl for the really*  
> *scary things as it will make the future life easier.*  
>  
> *If you have some pointers to the existing code, that may help too.*

Well, before I start implementing it (further), I thought it would be smart to be able to rely on certain things. As long as I don't even know if I get the numbers I don't write code... but frankly, the current development sisfb version available on my website has a very few of the intended ioctls already implemented.

The interface I intend to use matches the one the X driver has (using the Xv extension as an ioctl replacement) and will be documented. Since I develop both the SiS kernel framebuffer driver as well as the SiS X driver this will reduce duplicate code and ensures good cooperation. Furthermore, there could be a common library for both the framebuffer and X.

Hm. Were the matrox folks asked for a "clear interface" in advance when they started using the 'n' ioctls? Am I too polite? ;)

sisfb uses a few ioctls already, as an extension to the generic fb

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related ioctls. (Although the version currently in mainline 2.4 is not in any way 32/64 bit safe, and neither is the mainline 2.6 version yet as regards the obviously required ioctl32 emulation stuff – investigating this at the moment).

Thomas

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