

Re: [opensuse] LCD with CRT on laptop

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- *From:* Simon Roberts <[thorpflyer@xxxxxxxxx](mailto:thorpflyer@xxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Thu, 16 Nov 2006 17:43:30 -0800 (PST)
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----- Original Message -----

From: M Harris <[harrismh777@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:harrismh777@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)>  
To: [opensuse@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:opensuse@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)  
Sent: Thursday, November 16, 2006 2:47:23 PM  
Subject: Re: [opensuse] LCD with CRT on laptop

On Thursday 16 November 2006 11:25, Simon Roberts wrote

Most recently, I used SaX to try to enable "DualHead" mode. That has been partially successful. What I expected was two displays "side by side" with the mouse running between them. What I got is both displays running (at different resolutions) but showing identical output. Sounds good, right? Well only to a point.

Any suggestions?

The answer to this question depends on the notebook you're using... and the projector... and unfortunately they all do this thing differently.

First, the hotkey sequence to toggle between the external VGA and the TFT LCD is only partially bios, and in fact is designed to interface with a windoze driver [thnaks to the M\$ evil monopoly]. However, determining which output is active (on) by default is controlled (usually) by the bios only.

On my IBM ThinkPad R30 I set the bios display output to \*BOTH\* which by default sends the video output to both the LCD and the external VGA port. This works fine for the most part, however, there are a few catches which you have also run into. The first catch is video resolution on the output to the projector. Your laptop is configured (xorg.conf) for the LCD TFT monitor... and is not configured for VGA output to a tube. Fortunately most modern projectors are setup to "sense" and tune to whatever output it gets. (you need one of those projectors). My projector will sometimes come up in 800x600 even though I am configured for 1024x768. The projector has a top side button that when pressed will toggle up to the next resolution (if available) and then display correctly. The second thing you'll probably run into is screen

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blanking or screen saver modes. When I am teaching and I need the projector to be up all the time I manually configure the bios (for that night) to use \*BOTH\* LCD and VGA. I manually disable xscreensaver (I don't use the KDE default) and I have the laptop bios set to \*never\* blank the screen (not turn off the CCFL backlight).

Try looking at your bios settings (setup mode) for the laptop (which one is it?). Actually your "dual head" mode through SAX may be the best you are going to get with this setup. The next step is to get more personally acquainted with the projector you are using. You may even want to consider upgrading the projector (better lumens, auto sensing, tapazoid output [keystoneing]... etc). Also, you might want to look closer at the "dual head" settings in SAX... I have not... and see if you have the option to individually configure the video to each head...

Which projector is it...? Which notebook...?

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Well, it's not my projector, it belongs to the folks I'm teaching. That's usually the case, and didn't used to cause any trouble.

The notebook is a Toshiba A105-S4324.

The dual head/clone mode I'm currently using is driving 1280x800 to the LCD and 1024x768 to the external display. That's really quite a nice touch, and I'd be a happy bunny if it would boot normally with that mode selected but the external video disconnected. When I try that, I seem to end up with a blank LCD. Very odd, and clearly rather incapacitating.

I guess my problem is my video card in some way, or perhaps the driver. I have—as I understand it—an Intel GMA950 video card. It appears to be using the i810 module for XFree86. The SaX configuration greys out the options to select between clone and xinerama modes, so I guess that it's not capable of generating different data on each of the two physical screens. I can live with that if that's the case, though I'm a little surprised that what I thought was a modern card can't do that.

I'll play with the bios settings over the weekend, but from what you say, I might do better just fixing the "change video mode" crash and using the dual-head option. Or better yet, just finding out how to boot it with the dual head mode when the external display isn't connected.

Thanks again for the input,  
Simon

"You can tell whether a man is clever by his answers. You can tell whether a man is wise by his questions."  
Naguib Mahfouz

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