

[opensuse] Re: How to limit/eliminate CPU/FAN Noise?

Source: <http://linux.derkeiler.com/Mailing-Lists/SuSE/2007-05/msg02720.html>

- *From:* Eberhard Roloff <tuxebi@xxxxxx>
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Gaël Lams wrote:

Hi,

I install SLED 10 on an HP workstation xw4400. Everything is working perfectly except for the noise: compared to the same workstation with Windows XP installed, which is pretty silent, the linux box makes quite a lot of noise.

I've googled a little bit but did not find any extensive response.

Is there something on SLED (or opensuse, or even from source code to compile) that I can install and configure to have the system automatically slowing down or up the fan?

Regards,

Gael

Hi,

imho "normally" your fan(s) should be controlled by the temperature that is emitted by your cpu/gpu/psu and many other elements of your computer.

Consequently, if your computer consumes more power, the fan will speed up to ensure proper cooling of the resulting heat.

Basically, this should work independant of any OS and it should also work, when no OS is running.

Now,

I would try this:

1. ensure that you have some overview of your systems temperature and fanspeeds:

install lm-sensors, run sensors-detect and if "something" is detected, use ksensors (for KDE) and ensure that it works. Unfortunately, from my experience, not any computer is supported by sensors.

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2. ensure that your powermanagement is setup properly, so that your computer uses only the power that it needs at any given moment:

There are dozens of howtos around and you should see what you can do depending on what you have in regard to motherboard, cpu type....
Imho Windows fares much better here, but you can do a lot in Linux, it just sometimes takes time...

3. Lastly, if that does not work (with Linux), I would go the extra mile and invest cheaply into electronics that controls my fan speeds independantly of anything manufacturer related, just relying on the actual temperature.

My experience with these is very good:

http://www.noisemagic.de/pdf/thermocontrol/nmt-2/ver02/an_loet_de-eng_screen.pdf

Note: Even if your fans are controlled properly by your motherboard/bios, the onboard fan regulation imho very often is crap because anyone wants to have highspeed, highperformance, high... but basically no one is interested in quiet computers. So what you get is what you (did not) ask for. ;-)

kind regards
Eberhard

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