

Re: Installation of 10.2 with nvidia Geforce card

Source: <http://linux.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/alt.os.linux.suse/2007-01/msg01336.html>

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 - *Date:* Tue, 30 Jan 2007 17:37:36 -0600
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there's 2 drivers for nvidia – one called "nv" which is an open-source driver that should come with suse, get detected and installed by default, without needing any extra downloads or stuff.

the other is "nvidia", which is a proprietary driver you can only get from nvidia. i usually do this by downloading it from nvidia.com and installing; trying to use the nvidia installation source in yast, or other kinds of helpful pre-built packages, never seems to work for me. never works on any other linux distro i've seen either :)

you only need it if you want 3D acceleration for games and 3D graphics.

so: first, you just need to get a functioning desktop installed. the installer should be able to accomplish this without anything special. it kind of sounds like right now something is a little screwy, if you can't get into X, can't run sax2, etc. so i guess you gotta deal with that 1st.

then:

go to nvidia.com, go to the support or downloads section to download the driver, choose the one for linux of course. it will be called something like 'NVIDIA-Linux-x86-1.0-9629-pkg1.run'. the exact name depends on the version you download; they're always upgrading it.

to install this you can't have X Windows running.
hit CTRL-ALT-F1 to go to a text terminal.
log in as root.

kill X windows either by changing runlevel

```
$ init 3
```

or by just stopping GDM or KDM (the Gnome or KDE login managers)

```
$ /etc/init.d/gdm stop
```

or

```
$ /etc/init.d/kdm stop
```

Re: Installation of 10.2 with nvidia Geforce card

now, go to the directory you downloaded the driver into, e.g.

```
$ cd ~badzmaru/Desktop
```

make the driver Executable:

```
$ chmod +x NVIDIA-Linux-x86-1.0-9629-pkg1.run
```

remember, tab autocomplete is your friend.

run it:

```
$ ./NVIDIA-Linux-x86-1.0-9629-pkg1.run
```

when it asks about downloading a precompiled module, say no.
then it should try and compile the module.

if it stops and says it can't find the kernel headers, you have to install
the linux kernel source.

go back to the desktop (startx, or init 5, or /etc/init.d/gdm restart)

open yast and search for packages with 'kernel'. you want
kerne-source-2.6.xxxxx . then go back to text mode and try again.

at the end it should have built an nvidia kernel module for your card.

it should also give you the option to automatically configure your
xorg.conf file, to make it use the new driver.

On Sun, 28 Jan 2007 01:39:53 -0600, imotgm wrote:

On Sat, 27 Jan 2007 14:31:58 -0800, Texaner wrote:

Thank you very much for your hints.

I first tried to install Suse with skipping the configuration option.
I was able to boot the system and I was able to add the nvidia driver
download sources. But when I try to configure the graphics card and
press the test button, the system hangs.

So I tried, as described above, to start my system in runlevel 3. I
did this by yast setting the runlevel to 3 and rebooted my system.
When I then typed in "sax2" it results in "-bash -sax2 command not
found". Now I'm caught in runlevel 3 because "init 5" results in the
same error message.

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What can I do now?

You can start by giving some real information. Which geforce card do you have? There are many. You say you've added the nvidia download sources, but did you d/l the driver? If not, what driver is xorg.conf trying to use to open X.

We can't see your machine. You can. We need to know what you see, if we are to help. Sax2 sometimes screws up with some nvidia cards. You may have to edit xorg.conf directly, with a text editor, to get a usable 2D desktop, before you can get the 3D driver installed.

First try sax2 again. You have to be logged in as root to run sax2. If it works, let us know. If not post the information asked for. You will find xorg.conf at /etc/X11/xorg.conf. You can view it with less, or edit it with vi.

You don't say how much, if any, experience you have with Linux, so it's hard to guide you. The more accurate information you give us, the easier it will be to give you instructions that you can understand, and use.