

different (not new) video card woes

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I changed video cards. I guess it's an upgrade. The new one is an ATI All-in-Wonder 8500DV. Due to a mix-up (my fault), I bought a new video card thinking this one was bad, which displaced this into my machine. Expensive mistake, I know.

Anyhow, I'm hand-crafting modes for XFree86 (4.2.0. driver=radeon, wm=fvwm2). I know I don't *_have to_*, but this allows me to use modes XFree86 hadn't thought of (currently 1536x1152), and hopefully to keep the dotclock as low as possible, to minimize heat generated by the GPU (the AIW's fan died [yes I removed it afterward] so I'm really interested in keeping it cool). I'm not very sensitive to flicker; a 60Hz refresh rate is fine with me.

I was using these modes, with this monitor, on this computer a few weeks ago; the only thing that changed was the video card. It started giving these effects that I'll describe.

I have this right now:

```
Mode "my_1536x1152"  
    Dotclock 160  
    Htimings 1536 1612 2128 2242  
    Vtimings 1152 1160 1169 1189  
EndMode
```

which XFree86 says has a scan rate of 74.4 kHz and a refresh rate of 60.0 Hz. I have 8 virtual screens [1], arranged as 1 column. On the first, it looks fine. On higher-numbered (logically lower) screens, the display is dimmer by ~25%.

Also, if I show a web page of mostly white in a big window, it's fine. But as I move that window toward the left edge of the screen, the display darkens starting at about 50 pixels from the edge, to where the image is almost black if the window is flush left. This does not happen if the window is small (~300 pixels high). OK, the screen turns light purple but does not get dark. The mode `my_800x600` shows only a slight darkening under the same situation:

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```
Mode "my_800x600"  
  Dotclock 40  
  Htimings 800 832 1032 1064  
  Vtimings 600 603 605 623  
EndMode
```

(37.6 kHz, 60.3 Hz)

What is the cause of the two darkenings? What can I do about them? Do they indicate that this card is, in fact, bad?

[1] or whatever your window manager calls them... windows that extend past the bottom of screen N appear at the top on screen N+1

```
--  
-eben      ebQenWl@EtaRmpTabYayU.rIr.OcoPm    home.tampabay.rr.com/hactar  
VIRGO: All Virgos are extremely friendly and intelligent - except  
for you. Expect a big surprise today when you wind up with your  
head impaled upon a stick. -- Weird Al, _Your Horoscope for Today_
```