

## Re: CLI-kiddies/advocates ?

**Source:** <http://linux.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/comp.os.linux.misc/2005-11/3600.html>

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**Date:** 11/27/05

Date: Sun, 27 Nov 2005 16:44:09 -0600

On Sun, 27 Nov 2005 20:01:55 GMT, Aragorn staggered into the Black Sun and said:

- > *On Sunday 27 November 2005 18:20, news@absamail.co.za wrote:*
- >> *An important application dating back to 1999, which runs under X and*
- >> *which I used to run under RedHat6.2, I now need to run on a newer*
- >> *box.*
- > *You'd get more help if you were to say what application this might be.*
- > *Yet you prefer going off on a rant, which is not exactly going to get*
- > *you much help /or/ sympathy...*

Aragorn has hit the nail on the head here.

- >> *With great pain [waste of time] recently I got X-setup for*
- >> *Mandrake-9. But the important application doesn't run.*

? Mandrake had an interactive X setup thingy even before X 4.0 was invented. If you did the regular Mandrake install, that interactive X setup thing started automatically.

And if an X application doesn't run, the *\*first\** thing you should do is open an xterm/konsole/eterm, then try to start the X app from that terminal window. X apps tend to output diagnostic info to standard error when they can't start, and that diagnostic info typically leads to a place to start looking.

- >> *debugging method is to copy the old RH6.2 installation with the*
- >> *special application to the newer box, on a separate partition.*

IIRC, Redhat 6.2 used X 3.3.6. Mandrake 9 used X 4.1 or 4.2. The config file format changed quite a bit between X 3.n and X 4.n, though all the 4.n Xs are supposed to use the same config file format. Specifically, X 3.n had the "svga" X module, while X 4.n split that module up into a bunch of video-card-specific modules.

- >> *Just to rediscover the ID of the 'X-setup' command, I took one hour*
- >> *guessing, testing logging-notes.*
- > *apropos XFree86*
- > *... and you would have gotten a useful list of utilities and /man/*

> *pages.*

Er. That "useful list" would've been many screens long, which would've confused the hell out of the OP.

>> *And now 5 minutes later I've forgotten [need to search notes again],  
>> is it called Xconfig, X86setup, X11config .....dog\$hit ...or  
>> what?*

"X -configure" will autoprobe the graphics card and write a mostly usable config file in all X 4.n releases. The main problem with it is that it defaults to 8-bit color, which you don't want. It's pretty simple to edit /etc/X11/XF86Config-4 or /etc/X11/xorg.conf with your favorite text editor and set the DefaultColorDepth to 16 or 24. Also, it may not autoprobe the resolutions you want properly; adding "1280x1024" or whatever to the Modes lines is not difficult though.

> *If you want to master your system, then you must \_learn\_ how it works.*

True. All distros have something in their paper manuals or online documentation called "setting up X" or "configuring the GUI environment". That's the first place the OP should've looked.

>> *And the non-CLI advocates will say that I should only be using the  
>> latest cartoon-based [something] which doesn't need to know the ID of  
>> the X-setup command. How then do I handle my old applications ?*

Er... huh? I don't get what you mean here. If you got X running, it's possible that this old application requires some compatibility libraries that weren't installed. Another poster pointed that out; the cure in that case is to find the lib\*compat\* packages on your distro CDs and install them all. The core X protocol \*has\* \*not\* \*changed\* for years; the new features are all in X extensions. The problem you're having may be due to compatibility libraries, or if the app is really old, it may require 8-bit color. To find out what the problem is, start the X app from an xterm/konsole and reproduce the error messages you get in a followup.

>> *A main reason for WinTel's success is the respect for users  
>> investment, by allowing old applications to live on.  
> Microsoft has \_no\_ respect whatsoever for any user's investments. All  
> they care about is that you buy their products, which partly explains  
> why their products are of such low quality.*

Ah yes. That's why there are several messages/week in comp.periphs.scanners from people who complain that their parport scanners, which worked fine under Doze9x, won't work at all in DozeXP. Backwards combatability is always a crapshoot under Microsoft OSes, particularly for things that touch the hardware directly like device drivers for unpopular peripherals.

comp.os.linux.misc: Re: CLI-kiddies/advocates ?

Ah well. Try the stuff I mentioned and other people have mentioned, and post the error messages from the problem app's startup. Or you can keep complaining. One of these approaches has a much better chance of solving the problem than the other. HTH,

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Matt G|There is no Darkness in Eternity/But only Light too dim for us to see  
Brainbench MVP for Linux Admin /      mail: TRAP + SPAN don't belong  
http://www.brainbench.com /      "He is a rhythmic movement of the  
-----/      penguins, is Tux." --MegaHAL
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