

Re: Installer does not detect video card (not an X issue)

Source: <http://linux.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/comp.os.linux.questions/2005-02/0016.html>

From: Phony Account (*phaccount_at_nycap.rr.com*)

Date: 02/03/05

Date: Thu, 03 Feb 2005 12:17:11 GMT

E. Charters wrote:

- > *What I would do is use a rescue disk to reconfigure X with the command*
- > *xf86config instead of using RH's Xconfigurator. Now I don't know if*
- > *RH even has that tool, or the handy-dandy XF86Setup anymore --*
- > *a TCI/TK program available from <http://www.slackware.com> which will do*
- > *it graphically using the always usable VGA-16 driver.*
- >
- > *RH is supposed to have both XF86Setup and xf86config. Try the latter*
- > *first and answer the questions. It is a command line tool. Late tune*
- > *the card with XF86Steup, which is graphical but will run from the*
- > *command line, setting up its own display. Really Xconfigurator should*
- > *work from the command line too, so go ahead and try that.*
- >
- > *You could use a rescue disk with at least a text editor on it. But even*
- > *without you can still run xf86config. You have to get root status and be*
- > *in a read write mode to run it, which is sometimes tricky. You might*
- > *want to try booting from a floppy made for that system with the boot*
- > *option -ro. There finding the video modes that are appropriate and the*
- > *drivers can be done "by hand". It is not that hard.*
- >
- > *The diamond fire GL 2 is not listed in the card database. Its driver is*
- > *unkown. IT could be the same as other diamond fire models, or you may*
- > *have to try the generic SVGA driver and possibly generic VGA.*
- >
- > *This is the great weakness of the RH system which presumes that it can*
- > *auto install everything and detect everything. It cannot, and there are*
- > *not always solutions if it fails.*
- >
- > *There are other lilo boot options. "rescue" allows you to fix things in*
- > *RH usually. "single" might work too. You could play with the "vga=80x25*
- > *" option as well after entering "linux" at boot time, to change video*
- > *modes.*
- >
- > *EC<:-}*
- >
- > *Phony Account wrote:*

>
>> *Hi,*
>>
>> *I am installing Fedora Core 3 on a Dell Precision 330.*
>> *Video card is a Diamond Fire GL2 with a rather old BIOS.*
>>
>> *(The PC was rebooted with the distribution CD, and I was prompted for*
>> *the type of installation. However, no partitioning yet, language*
>> *selection, ...)*
>>
>> *So, just before the actual installation, I see a message that the*
>> *video card was not detected (the monitor, kbd and mouse are) and that*
>> *the installation is going ``headless''. It then proceeds without*
>> *incident to partition, install packages.*
>>
>> *When the system reboots for the first time (this is when I'll set up*
>> *the users, etc), I briefly see a Fedora splash screen, then the usual*
>> *kernel boot messages, and _then_ the screen goes wild: on a blue*
>> *background reddish diagonal stripes march across the screen.*
>>
>> *I am not in X at that point. X has not been configured yet. I can*
>> *ctrl-alt-del to reboot. But ctrl-alt-backspace, ctrl-alt-F2 don't work.*
>>
>> *I tried booting to run-level three to go to a text mode only by*
>> *specifying init 3 at the end of the boot kernel command. The os*
>> *loader is GRUB. But the same thing happened again.*
>>
>> *Not knowing a thing about hardware, (and just slightly more about*
>> *Linux) I am wondering if the video card bios is too old and cannot*
>> *respond to the probing by the installer.*
>>
>> *Also, according to the same conspiracy theory, during the boot*
>> *process, the video card gets wierd signals because its bios is out of*
>> *date and throws garbage to the monitor.*
>>
>> *And it is not a monitor issue. I have tried two.*
>>
>> *But I seriously hope that it will not come to installing a new bios,*
>> *because I currently don't have a usable system, and using the rescue*
>> *mode from the install media to reach across the network to grab the*
>> *drivers which I downloaded to a windows machine seems like a great*
>> *project for my retirement. Right now, I need a working machine.*
>>
>> *Thanks for any suggestion,*
>>
>> *Mirko*
>>
>>

>>
>> *Subject:*

>> *Installer does not detect video card (not an X issue)*
>> *From:*
>> *Phony Account <phaccount@nycap.rr.com>*
>> *Date:*
>> *Thu, 03 Feb 2005 00:52:39 GMT*
>>
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>> *project for my retirement. Right now, I need a working machine.*
>>
>> *Thanks for any suggestion,*
>>

>> *Mirko*

>

>

EC,

As I said, I am not in X at that point yet. X has not been configured.
(I could be missing something).

But you are right about the card not being in the (at least red-hats) database. However, I did download a linux driver from the manufacturer's web site and was hoping to install it once the machine boots.

I was looking yesterday for a database of graphics cards for linux.
Where could I find it?

Someone else (I cross-posted to comp.os.linux) suggested kernel ...
vga=normal. I will try your and his suggestions.

Thanks for the reply,

Mirko