

## Re: Strange screen cause the system to hang during boot

**Source:** <http://linux.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/comp.os.linux.setup/2004-04/0198.html>

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In article <68e51b25.0404050051.a6e93c2@posting.google.com>, pethunholm@msn.com (Peter) writes:

- >
- > *The screen display: "Localhost login" in textmode. It clears and comes*
- > *up again 3 times and clears and then I get the strange text mode*
- > *window with a light blue background. and a dark blue smaller window.*
- > *In the darkblue rectangel there is two smaller rectangels with text*
- > *gibberish on black bakground inside. (What I called buttons).*
- > *It's my first try with Linux so I dont know how the graphical login*
- > *window is supposed to look?*

A text-mode "localhost login:" is a Linux text-mode login prompt. When the screen clears, chances are the system is TRYING to start X, and when the "login:" prompt returns, the attempt to start X has failed. Normally, after a few tries most distributions give up and give you a text-mode login, but it sounds like something's gone badly wrong and corrupted your video card's text-mode display by that time.

- > *I did some google and by means of adding a 3 in the startup sequency I*
- > *managed to boot up linux in text mode. Then the computer stopped at*
- > *the text "localhost login:" and after that it's not possible to do*
- > *nothing. I tried the Ctrl-Alt-F1 however nothing happens. Maybe as you*
- > *say it's problem with the keyboard?*

Ordinarily at a "login:" prompt you should be able to type your username at the keyboard to log in. If you can't, then chances are either the computer's hung or the keyboard's not working. If you haven't tried typing your username, though, do so. Ctrl-Alt-F1 is what you type to bring up this very prompt, so if you've done nothing but type Ctrl-Alt-F1, it's not surprising that nothing's happened. ;-)

- > *Since the computer doesn't have any original USB card there is a PCI*
- > *usb card installed. Maybe this causing problem for linux? During boot*
- > *sequensy linux say that it's installing USB keyboard and USB mouse, so*
- > *therefore it causing the system to hang or maybe not only takes*
- > *command from the keyboard at the login prompt?*

comp.os.linux.setup: Re: Strange screen cause the system to hang during boot

Are you saying you've got a USB keyboard? On the x86 platform, those are pretty rare. Still, I'd expect RH8 to be recent enough to have decent USB keyboard support, but maybe not... Does your USB card have a BIOS in which you can set options? If so, try fiddling with any "legacy keyboard" options it might have. If not, can you try a PS/2 keyboard? Even just using one temporarily might let you update your Linux kernel to one with better USB keyboard support or add appropriate options to enable better support using the provided software, if that's the problem.

Another option is to use another distribution -- either a more recent one in the RH line (like Fedora Core 1) or a different one entirely (SuSE, Mandrake, Debian, or whatever). Unfortunately, I have no specific suggestions for distributions with good USB keyboard support. Also, one problem with this approach is that an old 200MHz computer will likely be very slow with modern versions of KDE and GNOME. You'll want to stick with older versions of these environments or use slimmer desktop environments (like XFce) or even raw window managers (like IceWM or WindowMaker). You can worry about that later, though; for now, the priority is obviously to get you logged in!

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