

Howto: ATI fglrx driver + Xgl + compiz on Debian Sid for KDE users

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A how-to on manually installing Xgl and compiz on Debian Sid, for KDE users, with the proprietary ATI graphics driver ("fglrx").

Note: This how-to was done with [Kanotix](#) [2], which is very close to stock Debian Sid. I *think* it'll work on stock Debian Sid, but since I don't have Sid on my spare partition at the moment, I can't test it. If someone here can, it would be much appreciated.

Note: You should already have the fglrx driver installed and enabled before you start installing Xgl.

Note: If you have an nvidia card, **AIGLX is a much better way to go than XGL**. The new beta nvidia driver, v1.0-9626, supports AIGLX. AIGLX is better for the following reasons: AIGLX is built into X.org (whereas Xgl runs on top of X.org), so it's easy to enable and will get regular updates along with the rest of X.org; and you still get 3D acceleration with AIGLX, meaning you can run, for example, Google Earth (you don't get 3D acceleration with Xgl).

So why not run AIGLX with the ATI driver? Because, as far as I can tell, the proprietary ATI driver doesn't support the "composite" extension. Evidently you can run AIGLX using the non-proprietary "radeon" driver, but it's much slower. So, on my laptop, which has an ATI Radeon Xpress 200M, for example, if I want those fancy desktop effects, I'm stuck with Xgl.

1. Install the following packages from the normal Sid repositories:

libdrm2

libpng3

libxdamage1

libxcomposite1

libxfont1

libglitz1

libglitz-glx1

libgl1-mesa-glx

libfontenc1

Note: Even though compiz packages are in Sid now, they're aimed at GNOME users and don't come with a Preferences utility or a Theme Selector utility. So we'll install a more functional compiz package later.

2. Add to /etc/apt/sources.list:

```
deb http://cairographics.org/packages/debian/ [3] unstable/  
deb-src http://cairographics.org/packages/debian/ [3] unstable/
```

Then "apt-get update" and install:

libsvg-cairo1

libsvg1

3. Add to /etc/apt/sources.list:

```
deb http://www5.autistici.org/debian-xgl/debian/ [4] binary-i386/
```

Then "apt-get update" and install:

xgl

compiz

cgwd-themes

4. Edit /etc/kde3/kdm/kdmrc:

In section "[X-:*-Core]":

change

"ServerCmd=/usr/bin/X -br"

to

"ServerCmd=/usr/bin/Xgl :1 -fp /usr/share/fonts/X11/misc -fullscreen -ac -accel glx:pbuffer -accel xv:pbuffer -br"

Even better, comment out the existing "ServerCmd" so you can go back and forth between Xgl and regular X.

5. Edit /etc/X11/xorg.conf:

In the keyboard section, add: **"Option "XkbOptions" "altwin:super_win" "**

In the screen section, make sure the default color depth is 24

In the graphics card section, make sure that **"sw_cursor"** is disabled/commented out

6. Edit /etc/init.d/kdm:

After the **"set -e"** line, add this line (omit the quotation marks):

"export LIBGL_DRIVERS_PATH=/usr/lib/dri"

At this point, Xgl should be running when you log in to KDE.

7. To start compiz:

Bring up a konsole window and type "compiz-start.py &" You should now have compiz window decorations, wobbly windows, a desktop cube, etc.

You should also have a cgwd icon in your system tray (click on it to set compiz options and select themes!).

In order to start compiz when KDE starts, make a file named "compiz.desktop" with the following text:

[Desktop Entry]

Encoding=UTF-8

Exec=xmodmap -e 'keycode 113 = Mode_switch' -e 'keycode 22 = BackSpace';compiz-start.py

GenericName[en_US]=

StartupNotify=false

Terminal=false

TerminalOptions=

Type=Application

X-KDE-autostart-after=kdesktop

Double-click on it, and the screen should flicker and...you have compiz going, with all the effects (wobbly windows; desktop cube; etc.). You should also have an icon in your system tray that allows you to select themes and set preferences.

If you want it to run every time you log into KDE, put it in `~/.kde/Autostart`.

[Howtos](#)

Source URL: <http://www.tuxmachines.org/node/10425>

Links:

[1] <http://www.tuxmachines.org/taxonomy/term/58>

[2] <http://kanotix.com>

[3] <http://cairographics.org/packages/debian/>

[4] <http://www5.autistici.org/debian-xgl/debian/>