Matrox & Linux open for business

When it comes to business, Matrox recognizes the importance of functionality, stability, and performance. And we know where to get it—Linux. That's why we've been working with the Linux community for over three years, making it a priority to develop partnerships with distributors, software developers, and system and service providers.

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X/ Graphics

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Matrox has been committed to supporting the Linux community for three years now. Here's a brief overview of our achievements together—starting with our most recent.

Complete support

Matrox's recent release of the latest beta xFree86 driver made us the first graphics card manufacturer to support single slot DualHead cards on the Linux operating system. Combining DualHead features such as Multi-Display, Clone, and TV Output, with phenomenal 2D performance, Linux users can enjoy the full benefits of the Matrox Millennium G450 Series, Matrox Millennium G400 Series, and Matrox G200 Series. With the xFree86 driver, users have the freedom to modify, optimize, or create features.

This driver is based on the open source development being done within the XFree86 Project. Their driver remains unmodified, with the exception of the display adapter initialization, which has been replaced with a Matrox library. This special library enables features such as DualHead, TV out, and support for digital flat panel monitors, and is programmed to set the internal clock speeds to production levels, increasing 2D and 3D performance under XFree86.

3D Support

In the summer of 1999, the Matrox-Linux relationship went 3D when Matrox released the microcode needed to drive the Matrox G200 and G400 3D setup engines. This microcode allowed GLX developers to work with Matrox's triangle setup engines, while still protecting the company's proprietary technology. Using these specifications, dozens of programmers launched the GLX project—a Linux driver that would run games based on the Quake II and Quake III engine, off Matrox G200 and G400-based cards (among others).

2D Support

The 2D specifications for the Matrox G200 and G400, released in 1998, resulted in the development of a very stable, fast Matrox 2D driver with Windows-like resolutions and color depths. These cards include the original Millennium and Mystique Series as well as the latest Matrox cards, such as the Marvel G400-TV and the Millennium G450.

The Beginning

Matrox, a trusted leader in the graphics industry, recognized the importance of Linux early. In 1997, Matrox released hundreds of pages of technical specifications for the original Millennium graphics card, giving the Linux community the freedom to customize and increase the functionality of their Matrox-powered graphics.

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