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Howto: FreeBSD configure or use mouse to copy and paste at a terminal

Posted by Vivek Gite <vivek@nixcraft.com>

Q. How do I configure my mouse to copy and paste at a terminal under FreeBSD?

A. When you come from GUI to text-based terminal, you might miss the cut and past mouse functionality.

You can use your mouse to copy and paste at a terminal. Install moused which is utility and the console driver work together to support mouse operation in the text console and user programs.

FreeBSD moused configuration

To configure moused open /etc/rc.conf file:

```
# vi /etc/rc.conf
```

Add/modify following three lines:

```
moused_port="/dev/psm0"
moused_type="auto"
moused_enable="YES"
```

Save and close the file.

Where,

- moused_port="/dev/psm0" - The mouse port
- moused_type="auto" - Automatically detect mouse protocol
- moused_enable="YES" - Start mouse service when FreeBSD comes up i.e. start at boot time.

Task: Start/restarts/stop moused service

```
# /etc/rc.d/moused start
# /etc/rc.d/moused restart
# /etc/rc.d/moused stop
```

Task: Copy text

To select text press the left mouse button and drag the mouse.

Task: Paste text

To paste text in the same or another console, press the middle button.

Task: Configure two button mouse

Open /etc/rc.conf file

```
# vi /etc/rc.conf
```

Append following flags:

```
moused_flags="-m 2=3"
```

Save and close the file. Restart moused:

```
# /etc/rc.d/moused restart
```

Read moused man page [1] for more information.

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URLs in this post:

[1] moused man page: **http://www.freebsd.org/cgi/man.cgi?
query=moused&apropos=0&sektion=0&manpath=FreeBSD+6.1-RELEASE&format=html**