

The Zoran driver

unified zoran driver (zr360x7, zoran, buz, dc10(+), dc30(+), lml33)

website: <http://mjpeg.sourceforge.net/driver-zoran/>

Frequently Asked Questions

What cards are supported

Iomega Buz, Linux Media Labs LML33/LML33R10, Pinnacle/Miro DC10/DC10+/DC30/DC30+ and related boards (available under various names).

Iomega Buz

- Zoran zr36067 PCI controller
- Zoran zr36060 MJPEG codec
- Philips saa7111 TV decoder
- Philips saa7185 TV encoder

Drivers to use: videodev, i2c-core, i2c-algo-bit, videocodec, saa7111, saa7185, zr36060, zr36067

Inputs/outputs: Composite and S-video

Norms: PAL, SECAM (720x576 @ 25 fps), NTSC (720x480 @ 29.97 fps)

Card number: 7

AverMedia 6 Eyes AVS6EYES

- Zoran zr36067 PCI controller
- Zoran zr36060 MJPEG codec
- Samsung ks0127 TV decoder
- Conexant bt866 TV encoder

Drivers to use: videodev, i2c-core, i2c-algo-bit, videocodec, ks0127, bt866, zr36060, zr36067

Inputs/outputs:

Six physical inputs. 1-6 are composite, 1-2, 3-4, 5-6 doubles as S-video, 1-3 triples as component. One composite output.

Norms: PAL, SECAM (720x576 @ 25 fps), NTSC (720x480 @ 29.97 fps)

Card number: 8

Note

Not autodetected, card=8 is necessary.

Linux Media Labs LML33

- Zoran zr36067 PCI controller
- Zoran zr36060 MJPEG codec
- Brooktree bt819 TV decoder
- Brooktree bt856 TV encoder

Drivers to use: videodev, i2c-core, i2c-algo-bit, videocodec, bt819, bt856, zr36060, zr36067

Inputs/outputs: Composite and S-video

Norms: PAL (720x576 @ 25 fps), NTSC (720x480 @ 29.97 fps)

Card number: 5

Linux Media Labs LML33R10

- Zoran zr36067 PCI controller
- Zoran zr36060 MJPEG codec
- Philips saa7114 TV decoder
- Analog Devices adv7170 TV encoder

Drivers to use: videodev, i2c-core, i2c-algo-bit, videocodec, saa7114, adv7170, zr36060, zr36067

Inputs/outputs: Composite and S-video

Norms: PAL (720x576 @ 25 fps), NTSC (720x480 @ 29.97 fps)

Card number: 6

Pinnacle/Miro DC10(new)

- Zoran zr36057 PCI controller
- Zoran zr36060 MJPEG codec
- Philips saa7110a TV decoder
- Analog Devices adv7176 TV encoder

Drivers to use: videodev, i2c-core, i2c-algo-bit, videocodec, saa7110, adv7175, zr36060, zr36067

Inputs/outputs: Composite, S-video and Internal

Norms: PAL, SECAM (768x576 @ 25 fps), NTSC (640x480 @ 29.97 fps)

Card number: 1

Pinnacle/Miro DC10+

- Zoran zr36067 PCI controller
- Zoran zr36060 MJPEG codec
- Philips saa7110a TV decoder
- Analog Devices adv7176 TV encoder

Drivers to use: videodev, i2c-core, i2c-algo-bit, videocodec, saa7110, adv7175, zr36060, zr36067

Inputs/outputs: Composite, S-video and Internal

Norms: PAL, SECAM (768x576 @ 25 fps), NTSC (640x480 @ 29.97 fps)

Card number: 2

Pinnacle/Miro DC10(old)

- Zoran zr36057 PCI controller
- Zoran zr36050 MJPEG codec
- Zoran zr36016 Video Front End or Fuji md0211 Video Front End (clone?)
- Micronas vpx3220a TV decoder
- mse3000 TV encoder or Analog Devices adv7176 TV encoder

Drivers to use: videodev, i2c-core, i2c-algo-bit, videocodec, vpx3220, mse3000/adv7175, zr36050, zr36016, zr36067

Inputs/outputs: Composite, S-video and Internal

Norms: PAL, SECAM (768x576 @ 25 fps), NTSC (640x480 @ 29.97 fps)

Card number: 0

Pinnacle/Miro DC30

- Zoran zr36057 PCI controller
- Zoran zr36050 MJPEG codec
- Zoran zr36016 Video Front End
- Micronas vpx3225d/vpx3220a/vpx3216b TV decoder
- Analog Devices adv7176 TV encoder

Drivers to use: videodev, i2c-core, i2c-algo-bit, videocodec, vpx3220/vpx3224, adv7175, zr36050, zr36016, zr36067

Inputs/outputs: Composite, S-video and Internal

Norms: PAL, SECAM (768x576 @ 25 fps), NTSC (640x480 @ 29.97 fps)

Card number: 3

Pinnacle/Miro DC30+

- Zoran zr36067 PCI controller
- Zoran zr36050 MJPEG codec
- Zoran zr36016 Video Front End
- Micronas vpx3225d/vpx3220a/vpx3216b TV decoder
- Analog Devices adv7176 TV encoder

Drivers to use: videodev, i2c-core, i2c-algo-bit, videocodec, vpx3220/vpx3224, adv7175, zr36050, zr36015, zr36067

Inputs/outputs: Composite, S-video and Internal

Norms: PAL, SECAM (768x576 @ 25 fps), NTSC (640x480 @ 29.97 fps)

Note

1. No module for the mse3000 is available yet
2. No module for the vpx3224 is available yet

1.1 What the TV decoder can do and what not

The best known TV standards are NTSC/PAL/SECAM, but for decoding a frame that information is not enough. There are several formats of the TV standards. And not every TV decoder is able to handle every format. Also the every combination is supported by the driver. There are currently 11 different TV broadcast formats all over the world.

The CCIR defines parameters needed for broadcasting the signal. The CCIR has defined different standards:

A,B,D,E,F,G,H,I,K,L,M,N,... The CCIR says not much about the colorsystem used !!! And talking about a colorsystem says not to much about how it is broadcast.

The CCIR standards A,E,F are not used any more.

When you speak about NTSC, you usually mean the standard: CCIR - M using the NTSC colorsystem which is used in the USA, Japan, Mexico, Canada and a few others.

When you talk about PAL, you usually mean: CCIR - B/G using the PAL colorsystem which is used in many Countries.

When you talk about SECAM, you mean: CCIR - L using the SECAM Colorsystem which is used in France, and a few others.

There the other version of SECAM, CCIR - D/K is used in Bulgaria, China, Slovakia, Hungary, Korea (Rep.), Poland, Rumania and a others.

The CCIR - H uses the PAL colorsystem (sometimes SECAM) and is used in Egypt, Libya, Sri Lanka, Syrian Arab. Rep.

The CCIR - I uses the PAL colorsystem, and is used in Great Britain, Hong Kong, Ireland, Nigeria, South Africa.

The CCIR - N uses the PAL colorsystem and PAL frame size but the NTSC framerate, and is used in Argentina, Uruguay, and a few others

We do not talk about how the audio is broadcast !

A rather good sites about the TV standards are: <http://www.sony.jp/support/>

http://info.electronicwerkstatt.de/bereiche/fernsehtechnik/frequenzen_und_normen/Fernsehnormen/ and

<http://www.cabl.com/restaurant/channel.html>

Other weird things around: NTSC 4.43 is a modified NTSC, which is mainly used in PAL VCR's that are able to play back NTSC. PAL 60 seems to be the same as NTSC 4.43. The Datasheets also talk about NTSC 44, It seems as if it would be the same as NTSC 4.43. NTSC Comb seems to be a decoder mode where the decoder uses a comb filter to split coma and luma instead of a Delay line.

But I did not defiantly find out what NTSC Comb is.

Philips saa7111 TV decoder

- was introduced in 1997, is used in the BUZ and
- can handle: PAL B/G/H/I, PAL N, PAL M, NTSC M, NTSC N, NTSC 4.43 and SECAM

Philips saa7110a TV decoder

- was introduced in 1995, is used in the Pinnacle/Miro DC10(new), DC10+ and
- can handle: PAL B/G, NTSC M and SECAM

Philips saa7114 TV decoder

- was introduced in 2000, is used in the LML33R10 and
- can handle: PAL B/G/D/H/I/N, PAL N, PAL M, NTSC M, NTSC 4.43 and SECAM

Brooktree bt819 TV decoder

- was introduced in 1996, and is used in the LML33 and
- can handle: PAL B/D/G/H/I, NTSC M

Micronas vpx3220a TV decoder

- was introduced in 1996, is used in the DC30 and DC30+ and
- can handle: PAL B/G/H/I, PAL N, PAL M, NTSC M, NTSC 44, PAL 60, SECAM,NTSC Comb

Samsung ks0127 TV decoder

- is used in the AVS6EYES card and
- can handle: NTSC-M/N/44, PAL-M/N/B/G/H/I/D/K/L and SECAM

What the TV encoder can do and what not

The TV encoder is doing the "same" as the decoder, but in the other direction. You feed them digital data and they generate a Composite or SVHS signal. For information about the color systems and TV norm take a look in the TV decoder section.

Philips saa7185 TV Encoder

- was introduced in 1996, is used in the BUZ
- can generate: PAL B/G, NTSC M

Brooktree bt856 TV Encoder

- was introduced in 1994, is used in the LML33
- can generate: PAL B/D/G/H/I/N, PAL M, NTSC M, PAL-N (Argentina)

Analog Devices adv7170 TV Encoder

- was introduced in 2000, is used in the LML300R10
- can generate: PAL B/D/G/H/I/N, PAL M, NTSC M, PAL 60

Analog Devices adv7175 TV Encoder

- was introduced in 1996, is used in the DC10, DC10+, DC10 old, DC30, DC30+
- can generate: PAL B/D/G/H/I/N, PAL M, NTSC M

ITT mse3000 TV encoder

- was introduced in 1991, is used in the DC10 old
- can generate: PAL, NTSC, SECAM

Conexant bt866 TV encoder

- is used in AVS6EYES, and
- can generate: NTSC/PAL, PAL-M, PAL-N

The adv717x, should be able to produce PAL N. But you find nothing PAL N specific in the registers. Seem that you have to reuse a other standard to generate PAL N, maybe it would work if you use the PAL M settings.

How do I get this damn thing to work

Load zr36067.o. If it can't autodetect your card, use the card=X insmod option with X being the card number as given in the previous section. To have more than one card, use card=X1[,X2[,X3[,X4[...]]]]

To automate this, add the following to your /etc/modprobe.d/zoran.conf:

```
options zr36067 card=X1[,X2[,X3[,X4[...]]]] alias char-major-81-0 zr36067
```

One thing to keep in mind is that this doesn't load zr36067.o itself yet. It just automates loading. If you start using xawtv, the device won't load on some systems, since you're trying to load modules as a user, which is not allowed ("permission denied"). A quick workaround is to add 'Load "v4l"' to XF86Config-4 when you use X by default, or to run 'v4l-conf -c <device>' in one of your startup scripts (normally rc.local) if you don't use X. Both make sure that the modules are loaded on startup, under the root account.

What mainboard should I use (or why doesn't my card work)

<insert lousy disclaimer here>. In short: good=SiS/Intel, bad=VIA.

Experience tells us that people with a Buz, on average, have more problems than users with a DC10+/LML33. Also, it tells us that people owning a VIA- based mainboard (ktXXX, MVP3) have more problems than users with a mainboard based on a different chipset. Here's some notes from Andrew Stevens:

Here's my experience of using LML33 and Buz on various motherboards:

- VIA MVP3
 - Forget it. Pointless. Doesn't work.
- Intel 430FX (Pentium 200)
 - LML33 perfect, Buz tolerable (3 or 4 frames dropped per movie)
- Intel 440BX (early stepping)

- LML33 tolerable. Buz starting to get annoying (6-10 frames/hour)
- Intel 440BX (late stepping)
 - Buz tolerable, LML33 almost perfect (occasional single frame drops)
- SiS735
 - LML33 perfect, Buz tolerable.
- VIA KT133(*)
 - LML33 starting to get annoying, Buz poor enough that I have up.
- Both 440BX boards were dual CPU versions.

Bernhard Praschinger later added:

- AMD 751
 - Buz perfect-tolerable
- AMD 760
 - Buz perfect-tolerable

In general, people on the user mailinglist won't give you much of a chance if you have a VIA-based motherboard. They may be cheap, but sometimes, you'd rather want to spend some more money on better boards. In general, VIA mainboard's IDE/PCI performance will also suck badly compared to others. You'll noticed the DC10+/DC30+ aren't mentioned anywhere in the overview. Basically, you can assume that if the Buz works, the LML33 will work too. If the LML33 works, the DC10+/DC30+ will work too. They're most tolerant to different mainboard chipsets from all of the supported cards.

If you experience timeouts during capture, buy a better mainboard or lower the quality/buffersize during capture (see 'Concerning buffer sizes, quality, output size etc.'). If it hangs, there's little we can do as of now. Check your IRQs and make sure the card has its own interrupts.

Programming interface

This driver conforms to video4linux2. Support for V4L1 and for the custom zoran ioctls has been removed in kernel 2.6.38.

For programming example, please, look at lavrec.c and lavplay.c code in the MJPEG-tools (<http://mjpeg.sf.net/>).

Additional notes for software developers:

The driver returns maxwidth and maxheight parameters according to the current TV standard (norm). Therefore, the software which communicates with the driver and "asks" for these parameters should first set the correct norm. Well, it seems logically correct: TV standard is "more constant" for current country than geometry settings of a variety of TV capture cards which may work in ITU or square pixel format.

Applications

Applications known to work with this driver:

TV viewing:

- xawtv
- kwintv
- probably any TV application that supports video4linux or video4linux2.

MJPEG capture/playback:

- mjpegtools/lavtools (or Linux Video Studio)
- gstreamer
- mplayer

General raw capture:

- xawtv
- gstreamer
- probably any application that supports video4linux or video4linux2

Video editing:

- Cinelerra
- MainActor
- mjpegtools (or Linux Video Studio)

Concerning buffer sizes, quality, output size etc.

The zr36060 can do 1:2 JPEG compression. This is really the theoretical maximum that the chipset can reach. The driver can, however, limit compression to a maximum (size) of 1:4. The reason for this is that some cards (e.g. Buz) can't handle 1:2 compression

without stopping capture after only a few minutes. With 1:4, it'll mostly work. If you have a Buz, use 'low_bitrate=1' to go into 1:4 max. compression mode.

100% JPEG quality is thus 1:2 compression in practice. So for a full PAL frame (size 720x576). The JPEG fields are stored in YUY2 format, so the size of the fields are 720x288x16/2 bits/field (2 fields/frame) = 207360 bytes/field x 2 = 414720 bytes/frame (add some more bytes for headers and DHT (huffman)/DQT (quantization) tables, and you'll get to something like 512kB per frame for 1:2 compression. For 1:4 compression, you'd have frames of half this size.

Some additional explanation by Martin Samuelsson, which also explains the importance of buffer sizes: -- > Hmm, I do not think it is really that way. With the current (downloaded > at 18:00 Monday) driver I get that output sizes for 10 sec: > -q 50 -b 128 : 24.283.332 Bytes > -q 50 -b 256 : 48.442.368 > -q 25 -b 128 : 24.655.992 > -q 25 -b 256 : 25.859.820

I woke up, and can't go to sleep again. I'll kill some time explaining why this doesn't look strange to me.

Let's do some math using a width of 704 pixels. I'm not sure whether the Buz actually use that number or not, but that's not too important right now.

704x288 pixels, one field, is 202752 pixels. Divided by 64 pixels per block; 3168 blocks per field. Each pixel consist of two bytes; 128 bytes per block; 1024 bits per block. 100% in the new driver mean 1:2 compression; the maximum output becomes 512 bits per block. Actually 510, but 512 is simpler to use for calculations.

Let's say that we specify d1q50. We thus want 256 bits per block; times 3168 becomes 811008 bits; 101376 bytes per field. We're talking raw bits and bytes here, so we don't need to do any fancy corrections for bits-per-pixel or such things. 101376 bytes per field.

d1 video contains two fields per frame. Those sum up to 202752 bytes per frame, and one of those frames goes into each buffer.

But wait a second! -b128 gives 128kB buffers! It's not possible to cram 202752 bytes of JPEG data into 128kB!

This is what the driver notice and automatically compensate for in your examples. Let's do some math using this information:

128kB is 131072 bytes. In this buffer, we want to store two fields, which leaves 65536 bytes for each field. Using 3168 blocks per field, we get 20.68686868... available bytes per block; 165 bits. We can't allow the request for 256 bits per block when there's only 165 bits available! The -q50 option is silently overridden, and the -b128 option takes precedence, leaving us with the equivalence of -q32.

This gives us a data rate of 165 bits per block, which, times 3168, sums up to 65340 bytes per field, out of the allowed 65536. The current driver has another level of rate limiting: it won't accept -q values that fill more than 6/8 of the specified buffers. (I'm not sure why. "Playing it safe" seem to be a safe bet. Personally, I think I would have lowered requested-bits-per-block by one, or something like that.) We can't use 165 bits per block, but have to lower it again, to 6/8 of the available buffer space: We end up with 124 bits per block, the equivalence of -q24. With 128kB buffers, you can't use greater than -q24 at -d1. (And PAL, and 704 pixels width...)

The third example is limited to -q24 through the same process. The second example, using very similar calculations, is limited to -q48. The only example that actually grab at the specified -q value is the last one, which is clearly visible, looking at the file size. --

Conclusion: the quality of the resulting movie depends on buffer size, quality, whether or not you use 'low_bitrate=1' as insmod option for the zr36060.c module to do 1:4 instead of 1:2 compression, etc.

If you experience timeouts, lowering the quality/buffersize or using 'low_bitrate=1' as insmod option for zr36060.o might actually help, as is proven by the Buz.

It hangs/crashes/fails/whatevers! Help!

Make sure that the card has its own interrupts (see /proc/interrupts), check the output of dmesg at high verbosity (load zr36067.o with debug=2, load all other modules with debug=1). Check that your mainboard is favorable (see question 2) and if not, test the card in another computer. Also see the notes given in question 3 and try lowering quality/buffersize/capturesize if recording fails after a period of time.

If all this doesn't help, give a clear description of the problem including detailed hardware information (memory+brand, mainboard+chipset+brand, which MJPEG card, processor, other PCI cards that might be of interest), give the system PnP information (/proc/interrupts, /proc/dma, /proc/devices), and give the kernel version, driver version, glibc version, gcc version and any other information that might possibly be of interest. Also provide the dmesg output at high verbosity. See 'Contacting' on how to contact the developers.

Maintainers/Contacting

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