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Release notes for bttv

The latest bttv version is available from http://bytesex.org/bttv/

Make bttv work with your card

Just try "modprobe bttv" and see if that works.

If it doesn't bttv likely could not autodetect your card and needs some insmod options. The most important insmod option for bttv is "card=n" to select the correct card type. If you get video but no sound you've very likely specified the wrong (or no) card type. A list of supported cards is in CARDLIST. bttv

If bttv takes very long to load (happens sometimes with the cheap cards which have no tuner), try adding this to your modules.conf: options i2c-algo-bit bit test=1

For the WinTV/PVR you need one firmware file from the driver CD: hcwamc.rbf. The file is in the pvr45xxx.exe archive (self-extracting zip file, unzip can unpack it). Put it into the /etc/pvr directory or use the firm_altera=<path> insmod option to point the driver to the location of the file.

If your card isn't listed in CARDLIST. bttv or if you have trouble making audio work, you should read the Sound-FAQ.

Autodetecting cards

bttv uses the PCI Subsystem ID to autodetect the card type. lspci lists the Subsystem ID in the second line, looks like this:

00:0a.0 Multimedia video controller: Brooktree Corporation Bt878 (rev 02) Subsystem: Hauppauge computer works Inc. WinTV/GO Flags: bus master, medium devsel, latency 32, IRQ 5 Memory at e2000000 (32-bit, prefetchable) [size=4K]

only bt878-based cards can have a subsystem ID (which does not mean that every card really has one). bt848 cards can't have a Subsystem ID and therefore can't be autodetected. There is a list with the ID's in bttv-cards.c (in case you are intrested or want to mail patches with updates).

Still doesn't work?

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I do NOT have a lab with 30+ different grabber boards and a PAL/NTSC/SECAM test signal generator at home, so I often can't reproduce your problems. This makes debugging very difficult for me. If you have some knowledge and spare time, please try to fix this yourself (patches very welcome of course...) You know: The linux slogan is "Do it yourself".

There is a mailing list: linux-media@vger.kernel.org http://vger.kernel.org/vger-lists.html#linux-media

If you have trouble with some specific TV card, try to ask there instead of mailing me directly. The chance that someone with the same card listens there is much higher...

For problems with sound: There are alot of different systems used for TV sound all over the world. And there are also different chips which decode the audio signal. Reports about sound problems ("stereo does'nt work") are pretty useless unless you include some details about your hardware and the TV sound scheme used in your country (or at least the country you are living in).

Finally: If you mail some patches for bttv around the world (to linux-kernel/Alan/Linus/...), please Cc: me.

Have fun with bttv,

Gerd

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