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Xilinx Platform Cable USB under Linux

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Tim Ansell edited this page on Jul 23, 2014 · 2 revisions

Most instructions for getting this cable / device to work under Linux are out of date. Here is what I did to install on Ubuntu Precise 12.04 and using with iMPACT which comes with Xilinx WebPack/ISE 14.7.

You can purchase this cable officially from Xilinx and it'll cost you ~\$200 USD or you can purchase a copy from eBay. I got my [here](#), it costed \$37 USD with shipping. Ordered on 11th July and arrived on the 21st.

Instructions official instructions are at <http://www.xilinx.com/support/answers/29310.htm> but there where quite a few issues following them.

- First issue was `/opt/Xilinx/14.7/ISE_DS/ISE/bin/lin64/setup_pcusb` didn't understand I had udev and was trying to install for the ancient hotplug. Fixed by changing line 26 from `TP_USE_UDEV="0"` to `TP_USE_UDEV="1"`
- Next issue, `setup_pcusb` didn't tell udev to reload the udev rules. Had to do that manually with `udevadm control --reload-rules`.
- Next issue, `setup_pcusb` didn't ask me to install `fxload`, so I needed to install it with `apt-get install fxload`.
- Next issue, the rules that were installed to `/etc/udev/rules.d/xusbdfwu.rules` by `setup_pcusb` were invalid; they caused the following errors in `/var/log/daemon.log` shown below.

```
Jul 23 16:40:29 laptop udevd[841]: unknown key 'SYSFS{idVendor}' in /etc/udev/  
Jul 23 16:40:29 laptop udevd[841]: invalid rule '/etc/udev/rules.d/xusbdfwu.ru  
Jul 23 16:46:11 laptop udevd[841]: unknown key 'SYSFS{idVendor}' in /etc/udev/  
Jul 23 16:46:11 laptop udevd[841]: invalid rule '/etc/udev/rules.d/xusbdfwu.ru
```

This was fixed by;

- Changing SYSFS to ATTRS
- Changing BUS to SUBSYSTEM
- Changing \$TEMPNODE to \$tempnode

A copy of the fixed `xusbdfwu.rules` is below; you can just copy this over the installed values and then reload the udev rules with `udevadm control --reload-rules`

```
# version 0003  
ATTRS{idVendor}=="03fd", ATTRS{idProduct}=="0008", MODE="666"  
SUBSYSTEM=="usb", ACTION=="add", ATTRS{idVendor}=="03fd", ATTRS{idProduct}=="0  
SUBSYSTEM=="usb", ACTION=="add", ATTRS{idVendor}=="03fd", ATTRS{idProduct}=="0  
SUBSYSTEM=="usb", ACTION=="add", ATTRS{idVendor}=="03fd", ATTRS{idProduct}=="0  
SUBSYSTEM=="usb", ACTION=="add", ATTRS{idVendor}=="03fd", ATTRS{idProduct}=="0  
SUBSYSTEM=="usb", ACTION=="add", ATTRS{idVendor}=="03fd", ATTRS{idProduct}=="0  
SUBSYSTEM=="usb", ACTION=="add", ATTRS{idVendor}=="03fd", ATTRS{idProduct}=="0  
SUBSYSTEM=="usb", ACTION=="add", ATTRS{idVendor}=="03fd", ATTRS{idProduct}=="0
```

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After all that, you should then plug in your Xilinx Platform Cable USB and the "Connector Signals" / "Status" light in the top right hand corner should turn red indicating the `fxload` command worked. If this light is **not** red then something has gone wrong and probably `fxload` was not able to load the firmware.

