

GPS

There is a variety of GPS (Global Positioning System) hardware receivers supported in Arch Linux:

- Bluetooth GPS adapters
- USB GPS adapters (internal or external)
- WWAN-integrated adapters (some HP EliteBook modules for example)
- smartphones are able to relay GPS data over USB or Bluetooth with additional software

Contents

- [1 Drivers](#)
- [2 Interfaces](#)
 - [2.1 GPSD](#)
 - [2.2 ModemManager](#)
 - [2.2.1 View locationing capabilities](#)
 - [2.2.2 Enable GPS](#)
 - [2.2.3 Display location](#)
 - [2.2.4 Disable GPS](#)

- [3 See also](#)

Drivers

Usually a GPS device is presented as a serial device and the kernel uses a standard driver, but in some cases the drivers such as [mtkbabel](https://aur.archlinux.org/packages/mtkbabel/) (<https://aur.archlinux.org/packages/mtkbabel/>)^{AUR} or [mbm-gpsd-pl4nkton-git](https://aur.archlinux.org/packages/mbm-gpsd-pl4nkton-git/) (<https://aur.archlinux.org/packages/mbm-gpsd-pl4nkton-git/>)^{AUR} need to be installed.

Interfaces

GPS does not have a very unified interfacing and configuration in Linux. The raw GPS data is printed on the serial device and programs interpret the location by themselves, occupying the device in the process. Sharing the GPS adapter to multiple applications is possible with [gpsd](https://www.archlinux.org/packages/?name=gpsd) (<https://www.archlinux.org/packages/?name=gpsd>).

GPSD

GPSD (<http://www.catb.org/gpsd/>) is a daemon to query the serial GPS device and make its output available on a TCP server. It is the most standard GPS interface in Linux and GPS-aware applications usually support it.

ModemManager

ModemManager is some kind of a Linux WWAN modem support package which interfaces with **NetworkManager**. It also supports querying GPS coordinates from GPS-enabled WWAN cards and it even displays the location in the **modem-manager-gui** (<https://www.archlinux.org/packages/?name=modem-manager-gui>). The most important commands are:

View locationing capabilities

```
mmcli -m 0 --location-status
```

Enable GPS

```
mmcli -m 0 --location-enable-gps-raw --location-enable-gps-nmea
```

Display location

```
watch mmcli -m 0 --location-get
```

Disable GPS

```
mmcli -m 0 --location-disable-gps-raw --location-disable-gps-nmea
```

See also

- **Enabling GPS location in ModemManager** (<https://sigquit.wordpress.com/2012/03/29/enabling-gps-location-in-modemmanager/>)

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