

Multiple external monitors, on a laptop, on Linux, with Tritton See2 USB video adapter / sisusb

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I decided today that I really hadn't had enough crazy hardware hackery in my life lately.

I've been planning for a while to buy a new desktop, replacing the laptop I've been using as my only client system for the last year and a half. This was mainly due to a few irritants with the laptop:

- * one, it overheated all the time
- * two, the CD/DVD writer doesn't work
- * three, I can't have two external monitors on it as it only has one VGA port
- * four, intel driver bug causing periodic screen blankings that only a reboot can fix

In the end, though, I've decided to try and address these problems with the existing system, which is really a fine system if I can just deal with these things.

So first I tackled the screen blanking bug, which has been driving me nuts. Turns out to be related to a new feature of the X.org intel driver since 2.2.0, called framebuffer compression. Disabling framebuffer compression fixes that problem. This is being addressed by the intel driver developers currently, so hopefully 2.2.1 (or 2.3.0, whatever they call it) and later releases will work fine.

Today, I tackled the overheating and external monitor problems.

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[1] <http://www.tuxmachines.org/taxonomy/term/63>

[2] <http://www.happyassassin.net/2008/02/06/multiple-external-monitors-on-a-laptop-on-linux-with-tritton-see2-usb->

