

Nouveau Driver Remains Much Slower Than NVIDIA's Official Driver

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While benchmarks this week have shown the Nouveau driver can be faster with the Linux 3.8 kernel, further benchmarks have shown that this reverse-engineered open-source driver for supporting the spectrum of NVIDIA GPUs is still at a significant loss compared to NVIDIA's official but proprietary Linux graphics driver.

When using the Linux 3.8 Git kernel plus the Mesa 9.1-devel Git master code for Nouveau Gallium3D, both of which were fetched as the "Nouveau Latest" code from just days ago, the performance was compared to NVIDIA's latest 313.09 Beta proprietary Linux driver. The GeForce 9800GT, 9800GTX, and GT 220 were used as the cards for this round of comparison, similar to the benchmarks published earlier this week.

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