

A Video Card Upgrade HOWTO

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Created *19/08/2005 - 3:38am*

Submitted by srlinuxx on Friday 19th of August 2005 03:38:23 AM Filed under [HowTos](#) [1]

It might be nice to claim that Linux fans are a purely serious crowd, using our machines purely for tasks such as Web serving, Web surfing, writing or sorting out real-world problems. The truth is, there comes a time when it is nice to put the real world to one side and use our machines to relax. In other words, play games. That can mean pretending to be a pilot with the Flight Gear simulator, a penguin going after herring in Tux Racer or a marine chasing demons in Doom 3. Although other platforms, such as the dedicated game consoles, have a greater range of choices available to them, some great games are available for Linux.

The problem with many of the best games available for Linux is they challenge your video card like almost nothing else. That was the problem I found in mid-2005. My CPU was fast enough to take on almost anything, as described in "A Motherboard Upgrade HOWTO", but my TNT 2 video card with 32MB of RAM was not cutting it. Some games would run, but not well, and one game would not run at all.

So, the question is, how to go about upgrading a video card?

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