

Kernel Log - Coming in 3.7 (Part 4): Drivers

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The developers of the Nouveau driver have made major changes to the kernel-related part of the open source driver for NVIDIA graphics cores (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and others). It should now fit better to NVIDIA's chips, which the developers have gotten to know much better through reverse engineering over the years. The overall goal is a clean, simpler driver architecture that makes it easier to implement new features such as support for NVIDIA's Scalable Link Interface (SLI), which is not yet supported in Nouveau. Another addition to Linux 3.7 is rudimentary support for setting up fan management for graphics cores from the NV40 and NV50 series, which are used in series 6xxx through 300 of GeForce cards. For some of the GeForce 600 graphics cards with a Kepler GPU (NVE0), the Nouveau driver now uses its own firmware, although it doesn't yet support any acceleration features.

The code for configuring display outputs will be more robust and flexible thanks to major changes to the i915 Intel graphics driver.

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