James Kuyper wrote:

> Rick Towler wrote:
>>
>> You should be able to do this easily....
>>
>> If you are content with booting to the terminal and launching X manually
>> you
>> can specify what your desktop bit depth is. It has been a while since a
>> linux box sat on my desk (ahhh, those were the days....) but last time I
>> knew "startx -- -bpp 16" would get your 16bpp and as you can guess
>> "startx -- -bpp 24" would get you 24. If you are logged in and you need
>> to
>
> On my home machine, "startx -- -depth 24" is the appropriate command.
> The man page identifies "-bpp" as obsolete.
>
>> change it, you would have to quit your desktop manager, then restart X at
>> the appropriate bit depth. If your admin doesn't know how to change this
>> boot behavior, let me know. I may be able to dredge the name of the file
>> where you change the "boot to run level" setting out of my feeble brain.
>
> I've asked about this, but the sysadmins are unwilling to allow manual
> launching of X.
>

It's pretty hard to prevent.

Linux supports multiple displays on the same monitor in the same way that
it supports multiple consoles by using the virtual consoles.

You can start a second X server, running on display :1. You switch between
:0 and :1 with ctrl-alt-F7 and ctrl-alt-F8 (the second display uses the
next available virtual console by default). I'm not sure if you can have
more as I've only ever used :0 for 24bit and :1 for 8bit.

If does require that an XF86Config file is set up to handle multiple depths.

Unfortunately I've just upgraded to RedHat 7.2 and the XF86Config file I
had for multiple depths no longer works. I'll need to fiddle for a while to
get my IDL 8 bit display back again :-(.

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