
Subject: Re: Issue with 6.3, Mac OS X 10.4, 3 displays, X11

Posted by [Jeff Hester](#) on Sun, 19 Nov 2006 00:45:50 GMT

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Rick Towler wrote:

> I'm sure this has crossed your mind, and I only mention this as you seem
> to have a deadline that Apple might not be able to meet, but have you
> considered running a linux based PC instead of your PowerMac? Or <gasp>
> a windows PC? Your graphics adapters should work in an x86 box and my
> multi-monitor experience on these platforms has been pretty positive.
>

A similar issue exists in the Linux world. Older WMs like twm and sawfish allow creation of windows that are larger than the display. Unfortunately these are no longer supported. The "native" window manager in Fedora, MetaCity, will allow you to manually adjust a window to whatever size you like, and manages those windows just fine, but will not allow you to CREATE a window that does not fit on the screen. This is a large pain in your southern extremities when you are working with 4000 x 4000 images and have a few tens of thousands of lines of code built around the assumption that when you open a window with a specified xsize and ysize, you GET a window with that xsize and ysize. (This seems to be part of a general move in the Linux world away from the sort of flexibility that prevents off-the-street users from being happy.)

A very sharp student of mine tried to hack MetaCity, but threw up his hands in the maze of conditionals inside the code. And when he asked one of the developers about it, the answer was a very predictable, "Open windows larger than the screen? You aren't supposed to want to do that. What kind of an idiot are you, anyway?"

I'd be interested in hearing the outcome of peoples' experience with window managers and multiple displays in OS X. As of a day ago I have a PowerMAC, a 20 inch display, and a 30 inch display sitting in my lab. I would be perfectly happy if I could run X11 full screen on the 30 inch display with some reasonable window manager (reasonable = let's me create absurdly large windows), while running aqua in the 20 inch display.

I'm kind of afraid of taking the hardware out of the box because I know that when I do, I'm going to get sucked into issues like this for a month.

Cheers,
Jeff
