
Subject: dual display

Posted by [rmuzic](#) on Fri, 21 Aug 1998 07:00:00 GMT

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I'm considering purchasing an Alpha/Windows NT system and equipping it with a Matrox Productiva G100-Dual video card and a couple of 21 inch monitors. Does anyone have experiences with dual displays for image viewing? Theoretically the dual monitor setup should be transparent to IDL ...

Ray Muzic

rfm2@po.cwru.edu

-----== Posted via Deja News, The Leader in Internet Discussion ==-----

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Subject: Re: dual display

Posted by [menakkis](#) on Sun, 23 Aug 1998 07:00:00 GMT

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Would you believe, just last week we set up a dual-screen NT machine here. Running WinNT4 Workstation (sp3), with two Matrox Millenium II cards in it. What you get is a virtual desktop that simply spans your two screens. You can set it up horizontally (as we did) or vertically. i.e., As far as the "Display Properties" is concerned, our screen is 2048 * 768 pixels. EVERYTHING in windows "thinks" that the screen is this size, even the statusbar and the Office shortcut bar. There are NO issues like "which screen am I on?", as you get with X.

Apparently there's absolutely no going back if you get used to dual-screen. Especially with apps like ENVI.

Dual-screen with NT4 is, as you probably know, a specialist area, supported only by certain graphics card manufacturers. Usually identical cards (same memory etc). Matrox seems to be the popular choice. We were going to go for the new G200 Matrox cards, but were persuaded to stick to the trusted old Millennium II. (No comment on this, except that it appears that the G200 driver doesn't use that nice 3D hardware in multi-screen mode.) Don't know about the G100 cards.

Cheers

Peter Mason

-----== Posted via Deja News, The Leader in Internet Discussion ==-----
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Subject: Re: dual display

Posted by [This_Biff](#) on Fri, 04 Sep 1998 07:00:00 GMT

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That's exactly what I would like to do. Did you find out if there is any way to implement the dual-monitor with a G200 and a Millenium II. So NT believes that it is working at the new resolution so therefore there is no way to independently adjust the resolution monitors. The reason I am asking is because I have an old 14" and I am getting a new 17", but I would really like to use the old 14" also.

In article <6rq88g\$vho\$1@nnrp1.dejanews.com>,
menakkis@my-dejanews.com wrote:

>
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Subject: Re: dual display
Posted by [menakkis](#) on Sun, 06 Sep 1998 07:00:00 GMT
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This_Biff@my-dejanews.com wrote:

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> because I have an old 14" and I am getting a new 17", but I would really like
> to use the old 14" also.

Although I haven't actually tried this, I believe that it won't work. I found it difficult to establish any hard facts about dual-screen on NT4. The best source for Matrox is probably the "readment.txt" file that's part of the driver suite that works with many Matrox cards, apparently, including the G200s. It states: "In a multiple-card configuration, all cards must be Matrox graphics cards of the same model, and that model must be supported by the driver. Each display in your system will use the same resolution and color palette settings."

If you acquire two graphics cards of the same model to go dual-screen, I'd also recommend that you reconsider using two markedly-different screens. I guess they'd be fine if you sized your application windows so that they did not span the screens, but if you have large image windows spanning the screens you will become frustrated by the screens' differences. Even screens that are the same size but have different colour responses can be somewhat frustrating in this context.

I gather that Windows 98 (and WinNT5, when it's released) support dual screen with different model cards - this may be another option for you. I haven't tried either of these, personally.

Peter Mason

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