

subtle - Bug #178

Can't run dual screen while using Nvidia driver

01/16/2011 10:03 PM - Wael Nasreddine

Status:	Not a bug	Start date:	01/16/2011
Priority:	High	Due date:	
Assignee:	Christoph Kappel	% Done:	0%
Category:	Bugfix	Estimated time:	1.00 hour
Target version:			

Description

Introduction

I'm using nvidia closed-source driver and I cannot run in multihead (TwinView) simply because nvidia does not support Xrand yet, take a look at the xrandr output while I have the two screens attached

```
xrandr: Failed to get size of gamma for output default
Screen 0: minimum 320 x 175, current 3120 x 1050, maximum 3120 x 1050
default connected 3120x1050+0+0 0mm x 0mm
 1440x900    50.0   52.0   98.0
 1024x768    51.0   52.0   53.0   54.0   55.0
 832x624     56.0
 800x600     57.0   58.0   59.0   60.0   61.0   62.0   63.0   64.0
 720x400     65.0
 700x525     66.0   67.0
 640x512     68.0   69.0   70.0
 640x480     71.0   72.0   73.0   74.0   75.0   76.0
 640x400     77.0
 640x350     78.0
 576x432     79.0
 512x384     80.0   81.0   82.0   83.0   84.0
 416x312     85.0
 400x300     86.0   87.0   88.0   89.0   90.0
 360x200     91.0
 320x240     92.0   93.0   94.0   95.0
 320x200     96.0
 320x175     97.0
 3120x1050   98.0   51.0   53.0*
```

As you can see, Xrandr actually thinks that the two monitors are one big fat screen..

Fortunately

I have a good lead on how to fix this, I ran into this problem before using Awesome when they reverted one of their commits, fortunately they fixed it by using **another method** (Please see the next section) if Xrandr nor Xinerama worked (returned one screen)

So I guess for subtle, this method should be added on line 121 of [source:src/subtle/screen.c](http://source.src/subtle/screen.c), if both Xrandr and Xinerama found one monitor fallback to the **another method**

A good read:

https://awesome.naquadah.org/bugs/index.php?do=details&task_id=784
<http://thread.gmane.org/gmane.comp.window-managers.awesome.devel/5207>
<http://article.gmane.org/gmane.comp.window-managers.awesome.devel/5219>

Awesome does this (in their respective screen.c) at line

```
'246':http://git.naquadah.org/?p=awesome.git;a=blob;f=screen.c;h=1e4fc22d7ba53861593ae7690d9ab15591023e2b;hb=e830df60920496670ab29d5307f3ef5c1dab1d97#l246, they call screen_scan_randr() and screen_scan_xinerama() if both fails they call 'screen_scan_x11()':http://git.naquadah.org/?p=awesome.git;a=blob;f=screen.c;h=1e4fc22d7ba53861593ae7690d9ab15591023e2b;hb=e830df60920496670ab29d5307f3ef5c1dab1d97#l225)
```

Unfortunately

I have never done X11 development, I hope one day I will, and I have no prior experience with XCB, so the **another method** I was talking about, I couldn't figure out how it works so I have no way of patching subtle myself.

Conclusion

I need a patch to make this work with Nvidia and I need it fast, I'm using Subtle as my main window manager (Simply because it rocks, don't let me start on this topic... :)), but I require two monitors for my work, so I would really appreciate your hard work on this, very urgent, BUG..

Thank you!!

Regards,
Wael Nasreddine

History

#1 - 01/16/2011 11:18 PM - Christoph Kappel

- Status changed from *Unconfirmed* to *Feedback*

- Priority changed from 7 to *High*

Are you using stable or devel? When devel, did you try to disable RandR with -n? [subtle](#) will skip RandR and use xinerama in this case. I know several people with the same problem and -n solved it entirely.

#2 - 01/16/2011 11:21 PM - Wael Nasreddine

I'm using the latest version from Git

I'll try -n ASAP

#3 - 01/16/2011 11:28 PM - Wael Nasreddine

It seems working, It would be more interesting if it would check Xinerama even if RandR report that only one monitor enabled

#4 - 01/17/2011 12:11 AM - Christoph Kappel

Latest version from git? The git repository is horrible outdated, please use the mercurial one on hg.subforge.org. -n or --no-randr in long format tells [subtle](#) to use xinerama instead of RandR.

#5 - 01/17/2011 12:15 AM - Wael Nasreddine

Christoph Kappel wrote:

Latest version from git? The git repository is horrible outdated, please use the mercurial one on hg.subforge.org. -n or --no-randr in long format tells [subtle](#) to use xinerama instead of RandR.

Oops my bad, I meant mercurial, I'm just used to say from git nowadays :)

It's what I tried and it works (I have yet to learn how to switch screen or send clients from screen to another) but the setup seems fairly usable for now..

But like I said, since there are many laptops that comes with Nvidia, you could activate a part of the --no-randr option and that is to check Xinerama if RandR failed to detect more than one screen

Thank you! Keep up the good work !

#6 - 01/17/2011 10:44 AM - Christoph Kappel

The problem is that is not usually the case, I heard from many nvidia users especially from users of the nouveau driver, that xrandr detects two screens but with wrongs resolutions, wrong order and problems like that. Adding an option to disable the use of randr seems the better option for me.

I just need to add more docs about this, I started the multihead page, but since you already edited it, it's not even close to finish. Coding usually uses most of my time. :)

#7 - 01/17/2011 05:50 PM - Christoph Kappel

- Status changed from *Feedback* to *Not a bug*