

Why won't the Nvidia driver compile/install/load under Red Hat Enterprise Linux 6

Issue

- The Nvidia video driver will not install/compile under Red Hat Enterprise Linux 6.
- After kickstarting my machine with custom Nvidia drivers I get a blank screen, xorg doesn't come up properly.

Environment

- Red Hat Enterprise Linux (RHEL) 6
- 3rd party driver Nvidia

Resolution

If you have problems compiling and installing the nvidia driver you need to boot your machine with either the "Basic video driver mode" option from the boot DVD or by adding the kernel boot option 'xdriver=vesa nomodeset' when in the GRUB boot loader.

In order to make RHEL not load the nouveau driver you will need to blacklist it as follows:

- Add "blacklist nouveau" to /etc/modprobe.d/nvidia.conf
- Rerun dracut to rebuild the initramfs image file:

```
dracut -f /boot/initramfs-$(uname -r).img $(uname -r)
```

This will make the nouveau kernel module never load so it can't claim the gfx card and the nvidia driver can.

If you don't want to have plymouth (the graphical boot screen) use the nouveau driver you need the nvidia driver installed and an xorg.conf which loads the nvidia module specifically.

Note: Red Hat does not provide support for the Nvidia driver. This is a 3rd party driver which is not in the upstream kernel and Red Hat does not have access to its source code. Red Hat provides support on a best effort basis only. For full support on the Nvidia driver please contact your Nvidia sales representative or the company through which you purchased the hardware.

Root Cause

The nouveau driver was loading and was claiming the Nvidia video card. This was preventing the nvidia kernel module to do so.

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