

How To Build A Slackware Mediacenter (HTPC) With Kodi (formerly: XBMC)

My Situation

I wanted a **stand alone** media center and everything pointed to XBMC. I tried the various LiveCD versions of XBMC but each had problems that either prevented the system from working or were too annoying. The solution turned out to be a Slackware 14 box that boots right into XBMC.

Here's What I Did

1. Install Slackware. Optionally, use an old PC; you might be surprised at how powerful even an older PC can be for media playback.
2. Install [Kodi](#) (formerly known as XBMC), [ffmpeg](#), and dependencies. For automated installs, use [sbopkg](#) or a similar SlackBuilds.org frontend.
3. To keep the install as light as possible, use a lightweight GUI environment. You probably don't need a traditional desktop; copy `/etc/X11/xinit/xinitrc.twm` to `~/.xinitrc` to set twm as the default window manager.
4. Create a user named `kodi` and login as the user `kodi` to create the essential window manager configuration files.
5. Edit `~/.xinitrc` to simplify the window manager even further. At the bottom, change:

```
/usr/bin/twm &  
/usr/bin/xclock -geometry 50x50-1+1 &  
/usr/bin/xterm -geometry 80x50+494+51 &  
/usr/bin/xterm -geometry 80x20+494-0 &  
exec /usr/bin/xterm -geometry 80x66+0+0 -name login
```

to:

```
/usr/bin/twm &  
#/usr/bin/xclock -geometry 50x50-1+1 &  
#/usr/bin/xterm -geometry 80x50+494+51 &  
#/usr/bin/xterm -geometry 80x20+494-0 &  
#exec /usr/bin/xterm -geometry 80x66+0+0 -name login  
exec /usr/bin/xbmc -geometry +0+0
```

6. Edit `/etc/rc.d/rc.local` and add:

```
sudo -u kodi startx
```

this is instructing the system to login as the `kodi` user on boot and start the default window manager.

After you reboot the machine, it should boot right into kodi, and you should have a working media center/HTPC.

Some Other Things to Configure

If you keep your media files on other machines and they are accessible via Samba or NFS, make sure you enable file sharing:

- To enable Samba file sharing:

```
chmod 755 /etc/rc.d/rc.samba;/etc/rc.d/rc.samba start
```

- To enable NFS file sharing:

```
chmod 755 /etc/rc.d/rc.nfsd;/etc/rc.d/rc.nfsd start
```

For NFS, you'll have to do some other configuration but all that is explained in the [NFS wiki pages](#).

Sources

* Originally written by [arfon](#)

[howtos](#), [software](#), [hpc](#), [media center](#), [xbmc](#), [author arfon](#)

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