

# DisplayLink

## DisplayLink 3.0 Devices

This HOWTO covers how to configure and install the DisplayLink driver (*evdi*) for USB 3.0 devices, and has been tested under Slackware 14.1 and newer. For older devices (e.g. USB 2.0), the *udl* driver should work with minimal configuration needed.



Older versions of the DisplayLink driver installed themselves in `/usr/lib/displaylink` instead of the path `/opt/displaylink` which is used in the instructions below

### Preparation

In order to install the *evdi* driver, you will need to install [dkms](#), which can be grabbed from SlackBuilds.org using your favorite method. To install it manually:

```
# wget https://slackbuilds.org/slackbuilds/14.2/development/dkms.tar.gz
# tar xvf dkms.tar.gz
# cd dkms
# wget https://github.com/dell/dkms/archive/v2.4.0/dkms-2.4.0.tar.gz
# sh dkms.SlackBuild
```

After installing *dkms*, reboot your system.

### Installing *evdi*

Grab the current DisplayLink USB Graphics Driver for Ubuntu here:

<http://www.displaylink.com/downloads/ubuntu>.

After downloading, you'll need to extract the driver and run the installer script (adjust for the current version number and make sure to run the script as root):

```
# unzip DisplayLink USB Graphics Software for Ubuntu 1.3.54.zip
# sh displaylink-driver-1.3.54.run
Verifying archive integrity... All good.
DisplayLink Linux Software 1.3.54 install script called: install
WARNING: Unknown distribution, assuming default - this may fail.
Installing
Configuring EVDI DKMS module
Registering EVDI kernel module with DKMS
Building EVDI kernel module with DKMS
Installing EVDI kernel module to kernel tree
```

```
EVDI kernel module built successfully
Installing x64/DisplayLinkManager
Installing libraries
Installing firmware packages
Installing license file
Adding udev rule for DisplayLink DL-3xxx/5xxx devices
```

The WARNING messages are simply due to Slackware not being a “supported” distribution, and should not cause issue. Likewise, you might see a warning about the `lsb-release` command, which can also safely be ignoring. Once complete, the `evdi` module should be available. Restarting once more is recommended.

## Starting DisplayLinkManager

In order to manually start the `evdi` module and `DisplayLinkManager`, run the following:

```
# modprobe evdi
# cd /opt/displaylink
# ./DisplayLinkManager &
```



In testing, `DisplayLinkManager` did not seem to run properly unless executed by root and from the `/opt/displaylink` directory. Keep that in mind when manually, or automatically, calling the program.

Once running, you should be able to identify your new display(s) in `xrandr`:

```
$ xrandr --listproviders
```

Your native display (if on a laptop), will be Provider 0, with any connected monitors showing as 1, 2, etc. Assuming they are shown properly, enable them:

```
$ xrandr --setprovideroutputsource 1 0
```

Replace 1 with the number of your external display(s). Once active, they should show in `xrandr` or your chosen display settings, and can be configured properly.

## Automatically Loading on Boot

Since `DisplayLink` support is still pretty finicky, you might have to get creative with loading the module and starting `DisplayLinkManager` on boot. You should be able to add the following to `/etc/rc.d/rc.modules.local` to load `evdi`:

```
/sbin/modprobe evdi    # DisplayLink
```

In order to start `DisplayLinkManager`, you can add the following to `/etc/rc.d/rc.local`:

```
cd /opt/displaylink && ./DisplayLinkManager &
```

From there, you'll only need to run (or script) the `xrandr` command to activate monitors on boot. One example is to add them to a script, like this:

```
#!/bin/bash
#
# Activate external, USB-driven monitors.
#
for x in `xrandr --listproviders | grep "Provider " | awk '{print $2}' | awk
-F\: '{print $1}'`;
do
    if [ $x -gt 0 ];
    then
        xrandr --setprovideroutputsource $x 0;
    fi;
done;
```

## DisplayLink 2.0 Devices

For devices and docks using USB 2.0, the built-in `udl` module should be sufficient to enable external monitors.

## See Also

- [DisplayLink on ArchWiki](#)
- [Official DisplayLink Linux Forum](#)

[howtos](#), [hardware](#), [displaylink](#), [evdi](#), [author matthew salazar](#)

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