Installing and Configuring Xine

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1   Introduction

In this document, I show you how to configure Xine, an all-purpose movie player for Linux. By "all-purpose", I mean it can play wmv, mov, avi and mpg files. It also supports streaming over the internet via real video. Xine can also be used to play audio files (real audio, MP3 etc). It can also play DVDs, but for encrypted DVDs you need libdvdcss. That is beyond the scope of this document, check the Xine documentation.

These instructions are a supplement to the documentation from the xine homepage: http://xine.sourceforge.net. These instructions are for EECS 40 students who want to view the lectures in Linux.

If the following instructions don't work for you, don't despair. There is help everywhere! First, read the documentation from Xine's hompage. If that doesn't help you solve the problem, post to the EECS 40 newsgroup or email me: **mbharat@cory.eecs.berkeley.edu**. If you do post to the newsgroup or email me, PLEASE INCLUDE A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF YOUR ERROR. ANY ERROR LOG DUMPS WOULD ALSO BE VERY HELPFUL.

2   Installing from RPMs

These instructions are specific to the RedHat distribution. If you have another distribution, you may want to try installing from the source tarball (check the next section).

1. Download the following files [http://cambuca.ldhs.cetuc.puc-rio.br/xine/ for (a),(b) and http://shrike.freshrpms.net/rpm.html?id=342 for (c)]:

    (a) libxine1-1_cvs-031002.i586.rpm

    (b) curl-7.10.3-1.i386.rpm

    (c) gxine-0.3.3-fr1.i386.rpm

    (a) and (b) are the Xine libraries, gxine is the GUI frontend.

2. Install the RPMs (you may need to become root) :

(a) bash-2.05$ rpm -Uvh libxine1-1_cvs-031002.i586.rpm

(b) bash-2.05$ rpm -Uvh curl-7.10.3-1.i386.rpm

(c) bash-2.05$ rpm -Uvh gxine-0.3.3-fr1.i386.rpm

If you get no error messages, then you should be all set! Check the Conclusion section for a screenshot. If you do get error messages, follow the instructions in the Introduction section.

3   Installing from source tarballs

1. Download the source tarballs [from http://xinehq.de/index.php/releases]:

   (a) xine-lib-0.9.13.tar.gz

   (b) gxine-0.3.3.tar.gz

2. Untar the packages: bash-2.05$tar xvzf *package name*

3. Go into the corresponding source directory, configure and make xine-lib [1]:

   (a) /home/mbharat/xine-lib-0.9.13$ ./configure

   (b) /home/mbharat/xine-lib-0.9.13$ ./make

   (c) Install the lib package (you may need to become root):
       /home/mbharat/xine-lib-0.9.13$ ./make install

4. Repeat step 3 for gxine

If you get no error messages, then you should be all set! Check the next section for a screenshot. If you do get error messages, follow the instructions in the Introduction section.

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[1] You have to configure, make and install xine-lib BEFORE you install gxine
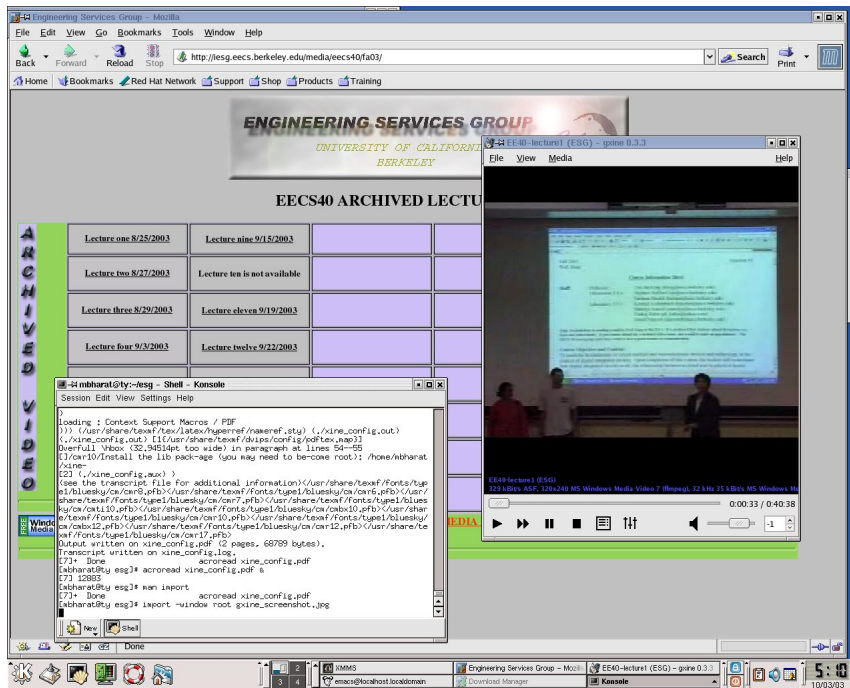
Figure 1: Xine runnin smoothly

4   Conclusion

I used both the RPM and the source tarball method for installing Xine (on the same computer). Both methods worked for me. I used gxine, you can use anything else for the GUI. You don't have to use Xine, you can use other players like MPlayer. This is just one way of viewing streaming wmv files.