

# Arch Linux Weekly Newsletter

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## 1 Opening

Welcome to the Arch Linux Newsletter. This attempts to give you an “at a glance” look at the world of Arch Linux.

## 2 News

1. Aurelien has upgraded `lm_sensors` to the 2.8 series. In the operation, the `i2c` package was dropped and the `lm_sensors` package does not include kernel modules any longer, as they are included in the 2.6 kernel.

Kernel 2.4 users are invited to apply the procedure described in the following installation guide for I2C and LM Sensors: <http://www.ensicaen.ismra.fr/delvare/devel/i2c/>

<http://archlinux.org/news.php#64>

2. Hey all,

We’ve been making some pretty big package updates lately, packages that in turn affect many other packages. So it seems to be a good time to unveil our special testing repository. Testing is a special repository, in that it holds packages that will eventually graduate to one of the other three repos (Current, Extra, or Unstable).

Testing packages are easy to spot because they always have a special package release designation. Instead of a normal “-1” or “-2” style, testing packages will appear as “-1t1”, “-1t2”, etc.

If you wish to help us test out new and potentially broken packages, you can activate testing by putting it above your other repositories in `pacman.conf`:

[testing]

Server = <ftp://ftp.archlinux.org/testing>

Warning: these packages will be about as unstable as it gets. Only use this repo if you want to help the developers test packages. The more people to help test, the quicker we can get the new packages into the main repos.

Thanks, everyone.

<http://archlinux.org/news.php#63>

3. Pacman 2.7.7 is ready. Among other things, it has a new `XferCommand` configuration directive, which makes `pacman` use an external program for all file downloads. This is useful for people who have problems with `pacman`’s built-in `ftp/http` support, or require better proxy support through a utility like `wget`.

You can install packages straight from a server with `-A` and `-U` by passing a full URL:

```
#pacman -U ftp://ftp.archlinux.org/current/pacman-2.7.7-1.pkg.tar.gz
```

It also includes support for a license field in package meta-data and a `-dbonly` option for `-remove` operations.

<http://archlinux.org/news.php#62>

### 2.1 This Week in Dev Land

1. As you all know, testing has now been added to our repo list. Our maiden testing package is `perl` with threading. If anyone wants to help test our `perl` update, feel free to add the testing repo to `pacman.conf` and start reporting missed `perl` module recompiles.
2. Most likely you will be seeing “# TU: ” comments in `PKGBUILDs` that are coming from

staging from now on. Eric suggested we acknowledge the work that the Trusted Users put into managing incoming.

## 2.2 ArchStats Updates

To participate, visit <http://archstats.coding-zone.com>

Number of registered systems: 371  
Date first system was registered: 20031017  
Most recent update occurred: 20040418  
Longest recorded uptime: 175 days, 22 hours, 51 minutes, 55 seconds.  
Average uptime: 4 days, 3 hours, 27 minutes, 49 seconds.  
Least packages installed on a system: 44  
Average installed packages: 262  
Most packages installed on a system: 733

## 3 Discussions

### 3.1 Forum Highlights

1. Calavera has written an ArchBootstrap script. It would allow you to create a base Arch install in a separate folder, from any distribution. Try the script out here: <http://bbs.archlinux.org/viewtopic.php?t=4020>

### 3.2 Mailing List Highlights

1. Sergey Manucharyan was having trouble using GTK apps. He was receiving missing libXinerama errors. Judd responded with this solution:

Either upgrade to Xfree86 4.4.0, or create a libXinerama.so:

```
cd /usr/X11R6/lib
ld --whole-archive -share -o libXinerama.so.1 libXinerama.a
ln -s libXinerama.so.1 libXinerama.so
ldconfig
```

Read the thread here:  
<http://www.archlinux.org/pipermail/arch/2004-April/001341.html>

### 3.2.1 TUR Mailing List

This week a new TU joined the ranks. We welcome Tobias Powalowski. There have also been many packages added to STAGING this week. Along with that, Xentac is working on a system to help clean up INCOMING. More info will be released later.

## 4 Packages

### 4.1 Package Highlights

1. The Linux kernel version 2.4.26 was released and packaged this week. Various parts of the 2.4 kernel are starting to go into maintenance mode, so future releases will be mostly bug fixes. The changelog can be read at: <http://kernel.org>.
2. XFCE 4.0.5 was released this week. It's strictly a bug fix release. You can read the release notes at: <http://xfce.org>

### 4.2 New Packages

```
perltk 804.027-1t1
perl-dbi 1.40-2t1
spamassassin 2.63-5t1
timedate 1.16-3t1
uri 1.30-2t1
io-socket-ssl 0.95-3t1
libwww-perl 5.76-2t1
net-dns 0.46-2t1
net-ssleay 1.25-3t1
digest-nilsimsa 0.06-3t1
html-parser 3.35-2t1
html-tagset 3.03-3t1
digest-hmac 1.01-3t1
pinball 0.3.1-1
castle-combat 0.7.4-1
X11R6.7.0-1t2
dcgui-qt 0.2.20-2
dclib 0.2.20-2
gimp-panorama-tools 1.0-1
gimp-perl 2.0pre2-1
panorama-tools 2.6bml12-1
gimp-freetype 0.5-1
gimp-gap 2.0.0-1
```



fftw3 3.0.1-1	seahorse 0.7.3-2
cln 1.1.6-1	shaaft 0.5.0-1
gxine 0.3.3-s1	smb4k 0.3.1-1
gksu 1.0.3-s1	supertux 0.0.6-s1
gmencoder 0.1.0-s1	giftui 0.4.0-s1
aspell-fr 0.50.1-1	spe 0.4.2c-s1
gnome-cups-manager 0.17-1	gifsicle 1.40-1
gnotime 2.1.7-s1	texmacs 1.0.3.3-s1
hexedit 1.2.9-s1	tse3 0.2.7-1
gp 0.26-1	ttf-cheapskate 0.1-2
gtk-smooth-engine 0.5.6-s1	universalkopete 0.1-1
windowlab 1.23-s1	klogic 1.6-s1
gtkglxext 1.0.5-s1	xfce4-fsguard-plugin 0.2.0-s1
gtkglxextmm 1.0.1-s1	xfce4-xmms-plugin 0.1.1-s1
sylpheed-gtk2 0.9.9-s1	xml-dom 1.43-1
hwd 1.6-2	xml-regexp 0.03-1
ion-devel 20030814-1	xml-xql 0.68-1
gocr 0.39-s1	logjam 4.4.0-s2
kbarcode 1.6.1-s1	xtermset 0.5.1-s1
ksambaplugin 0.5b2-1	xv 3.10a-1
labplot 1.2.2-1	xymms 0.9.1-s1
libchipcard 0.9.1-1	sip 3.10.1-s1
libgnomecups 0.1.6-1	qscintilla 1.2-s1
libksba 0.4.7-1	tnftp 20030825-1
ether-wake 1.09-1	imms 1.1-s1
gxmame 0.34b-1	adns-python 1.0.0-1
libofx 0.6.4-1	straw 0.22.1-1
putty 0.54-s2	htmldoc 1.8.23-1
fluxter 0.1.0-1	si3d 1.2-1
catdoc 0.93.3-1	xfree86-freefonts-fonts 0.10-1
loudmouth 0.15.1-s1	pil 1.1.4-s1
lwm 1.2.0-1	esmtp 0.5.0-1
mage 6.30.030607-1	gkrellm.amiconnected 0.6-1
matern 0.1-1	gkrellmseti 0.7.0b-1
mlview 0.6.2-1	meld 0.9.1-1
monopd 0.9.0-s1	msmtp 0.7.1-1
mp3burn 0.3.1-1	nautilus_thumbnailers 0.0.3-1
pwgen 2.03-1	ne 1.20-1
panorama-tools 2.6bml12-s1	njam 1.00-1
parse-yapp 1.05-1	digikam 0.6-s1
kshutdown 0.1.6-s1	emelfm2 0.0.7-s1
pixieplus 0.5.4-1	xfig 3.2.4-1
potrace 1.2-1	yabasic 2.743-1
potracegui 0.3-s1	tuxpuck 0.8.2-1
prekin 6.30.030607-1	pyxml 0.8.3-s1
prizm 0.2-s1	skencil 0.6.16-s1
pychecker 0.8.13-s1	bfilter 0.9.3-1
pygtkglxext 1.0.1-s1	opera 723-2
scribus-devel 1.1.5-s1	wtf 0.0.4-s1
scribus-docs 1.0.1-s1	amule 1.2.6-s2

jack-audio-connection-kit 0.91.1-2  
 xfce4-meneditor 1.05-s1  
 gtk-sharp 0.18-s1  
 fbpager 0.1.4-s1  
 mpd 0.10.3-s1  
 bittorrent-theshadow 5.8.11-1  
 py-libmpdclient 0.10.0-s1  
 xgalaga++ 0.7-s1  
 cups-pdf 1.4.2a-s1  
 3ddesktop 0.2.5-s1  
 sim 0.9.3-1  
 ntfsplogs 1.9.1-1  
 kdetv 0.8.0-1  
 kmyfirewall 0.9.6.2-1  
 kradio 0.3.0-1  
 progsreiserfs 0.3.0.4-1  
 pstoeidit 3.33-1  
 qtparted 0.4.3-1  
 synaptics 0.12.5-1  
 qalculate 0.5.1-s1  
 soundtracker 0.6.7-s1  
 tla 1.2-s1  
 pycrypto 1.9a6-s1

## 5 Problems

### 5.1 FAQ of the Week

Q: There's XFree86, Xorg, and FreeDesktop.org xserver, what's the difference?

A: XFree86 is the standard, stable, X11 System. Recently they tried to change the license to something many people weren't happy with. Because of this, the X.org group (who decides the X11 standard) decided to come out with a new version of their reference implementation. They took XFree86 4.4.0RC2 and added a few patches. Xorg and XFree86 are just about the same, but Xorg does not have any licensing/political issues. Arch has packages for both, and will probably use Xorg as the default system if the political issues continue.

Then there's freedesktop.org's Xserver (I refer to it as Kdrive to make it easier). This is a completely new X11 Server that will have advanced features like transparency and shadows. It is in heavy development, and isn't completely stable yet. You can try it out via CVS though. Unlike Xorg and XFree86, Kdrive won't work with the binary drivers released by Nvidia and ATI.

## 5.2 Bugs

### 5.2.1 Bugs Closed This Week

736. i2c, lm-sensors .install script bug  
 766. Including runtime libraries in swig package  
 682. Subversion doesn't include the hook scripts  
 312. vnc naming  
 754. Pacman segfaults during dependency checks (pacman -T)  
 342. Pacman hangs at 99% when downloading large files  
 278. LICENSE variable for pacman  
 697. gensync usage doc needs updating  
 752. downloaderx doesn't launch  
 753. pan needs gnome-common as a dependency  
 750. cdrtools conflicts with dvdrttools  
 531. kernel updates brake pcmcia\_cs  
 745. inkscape 0.38 dependency  
 711. SpamAssassin is confused with UTF-8  
 553. Glut makepkg errors  
 715. Gkrellm -w 2.1.28 doesn't run into the slit with gtk 2.4.0  
 479. usb-scanner module no longer needed in kernel 2.6  
 670. filesystem's upgrade modifies /etc/skel  
 663. Perl not compiled with useithreads support

### 5.2.2 Bugs Opened This Week

775. Install freezes on grub installation with XFS  
 774. gensync uses temp directory insecurely  
 773. courier-imapd binary missing  
 772. Xorg X server causes XKB error starting gnome  
 771. gnumeric - all options in preferences are labelled 'missing schema'  
 770. dosbox-0.61 doesn't download  
 769. libxfce4util fails to download  
 768. Remove 3 .py.in files from subversion package  
 767. make namcap check for TESTING release numbers in dependency packages.  
 765. Perl 5.8.3-2 broke spamassassin (maybe just html-parser)  
 764. mozilla-firefox pkg doesn't like themes  
 763. mplayer and v4l  
 762. mplayer and v4l  
 761. mplayer and v4l  
 760. mplayer and v4l  
 759. lame -vbr-new segfault  
 758. gDesklets fails to build

- 757. open office doesn't download
- 756. network stop fail with dhcp
- 755. Kaffeine crash on exit
- 751. downloaderx is broken (needs rebuild against new gtk)
- 749. permissions on gnome-games scores files
- 748. dcgui-qt needs to be recompiled (still using openssl 0.9.6)
- 747. Bad Pacman Behavior with provides=() packages
- 746. mozilla-firefox 0.8 startup script

## 6 Closing

That's it for this week, stay tuned for more exciting Arch Linux news.