Mac OS X Hints

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Use a PC GeForce card in your Mac
Jul 12, '02 08:48:51AM • Contributed by: Gwyrrdin

Mac OS X

With the forthcoming release of OS X 10.2 aka Jaguar, everyone with a ATI Rage 128 pro, or even worse, will not have the advantage of Quartz Extreme. But there is a solution, if your machine has an AGP slot. Go to the local PC shop and buy yourself a cheap GeForce card.

I bought an Asus GeForce2 MX 400 64 mb with TV-out. This card didn't needed to be flashed, and it worked out of the box ... but not with any OS X version above 10.1.2. In those versions, your card will be limited to a resolution of 1024*768 and will perform very badly. But have no fear! There is a simple solution for this. Read the rest of the article for the how-to...

WARNING: You'll do all of this completly at your OWN RISK!

The following how-to also appears on gargleblaster.org...

1. Reboot your machine in OS 9.

2. Download TomeViewer

3. Download the Apple nVidia drivers

4. Use TomeViewer to extract AENV MacFlash [1045-MRS] from the tome-file.

5. Open up your applescript editor and enter the following:

```
tell application "AENV MacFlash [1045-MRS]"
 CompareROMVersion
  if (CompareROMVersion) = true then
   FlashROM
  end if
 quit
end tell
```

6. Press the check syntax button (you never know) ...

7. Now save the script in the same place as where you have saved the extracted rom (AENV MacFlash [1045-MRS])

8. Run the freshly created AppleScript.

9. Reboot to X.

10. Enjoy your GeForce powered System.

If everything went well, System Profiler will tell you the following:

Card name: NVD A, NVMac
Card model: GeForce2 MX
Card ROM#: 1045F

I did all this in a cube 450 mhz with firmware 4.19f1. It needed some soldering and work to get it in the cube AGP slot, but that was only because I wanted it to look nice. In the G4 towers this isn't necessary at all. I didn't test the S-video and the TV-out plugs, but the card works perfectly, and should continue working when Jaguar ships.

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confusion
Authored by: logan on Jul 12, '02 09:08:08AM

Which problem does flashing the ROM fix, exactly? Does it now work at all resolutions in 10.1.2 and below, or does it now work in versions above 10.1.2? Or both?

Whichever it is: good job, Parappa.

> **confusion**
> Authored by: Gwyrrdin on Jul 12, '02 09:50:55AM
>
> Excuse my poor English, it ain't my mothertongue.
>
> But flashing the ROM solves the problem that a-non-flashed card doesn't display any higher than 1024*768 in X versions above 10.0.2
>
> So with a flashed ROM it does display all the resolutions and works properly up to 10.2.

> **Off brands...**
> Authored by: cwooster on Aug 07, '02 01:25:53PM