

Sun City Summerlin Computer Club

Linux SIG -Feb-25 2009

See If the Wireless Device is Supported by Linux

- Install the device and reboot Linux.
- Click on System -> Administration -> Network
- If the wireless device shows up, just configure it. (Be certain to disable any wired-network devices.)

See if the Device Manufacturer Provides Linux Device Drivers

- By “device manufacturer” we mean the manufacturer of the *radio chip* not the board manufacturer (e.g. LinkSys, NetGear, AirLink-101, D-Link, etc.).
- If the wireless device does not show up, on reboot, it is possible that the radio chip manufacturer supplies Linux drivers.
- Open a terminal window and enter: (Terminal commands are case-sensitive: use lower case.)
 - `lspci` for a PCI card.
 - or
 - `lsusb` for a USB device.
- Look for a line that has something like *Network Controller* or *WiFi*.
- On that line look for the manufacturer’s name e.g. *ZyDAS*, *RaLink*, *Realtek* ...
- Google on the manufacturer’s name and see if they have web site.
- Check the web site for Linux drivers.
- On the `lsusb` listing, each line has something like:
`ID 0ace:1215`
- The number `0ace` is the USB *vendor id*.
- Search in the file: `/var/lib/misc/usb.ids` for the vendor id and check for a web site.

Installing and Using *Ndiswrapper* and *Ndisgtk*

- *Ndiswrapper* is a software package that allows the use of Windows-network device drivers with Linux. *Ndiswrapper* is a Linux command-line program.
- *Ndisgtk* is a graphical-front-end for *ndiswrapper*.

If the Linux computer is **not** connected to a network.

- Use a network connected computer and go to:
<https://help.ubuntu.com/community/WifiDocs/Driver/Ndiswrapper>
- Download (for your Ubuntu version) the following three packages:
<http://packages.ubuntu.com/intrepid/misc/ndiswrapper-common>
<http://packages.ubuntu.com/intrepid/misc/ndiswrapper-utils-1.9>
<http://packages.ubuntu.com/intrepid/net/ndisgtk>
- Copy the three packages to a thumb drive or a CD.
- Copy the three packages to the target computer.
- Double click each one to install it.

If the Linux computer **is** connected to a network.

- Start the *Synaptic Package Manager* and search for *ndisgtk*.
- Install *ndisgtk*. *Ndisgtk* will also install the *ndiswrapper* and *ndiswrapper-utilities* packages.

After installing the *ndisgtk* package, start *ndisgtk*.

- System -> Administration -> *Windows Wireless Drivers*
- Click on *Install New Driver*.
- Navigate to the appropriate Windows device drivers on the media that came with the wireless adapter. (If different Windows versions are present on the media, select the driver for Windows 2000 or XP.)
- Click on the *.inf* file.
- Click on *Install*.

If the install goes ok

- Reboot Linux.
- Click on: System -> Administration -> Network
- If the wireless device shows up, just configure it. (Be certain to disable any wired-network devices.)