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NWCLUG

Agenda

- Overview of project
- Installation
- Configuration
- Hardware
- Links
- Questions?

The Freevo Project

- Started in 2002
- Open Source, home theater platform
- Licensed under the GPL
- Based on Python, Mplayer or Xine, SDL
- Runs on Linux and BSD
- Extensible via plugins
- Wide variety of hardware configurations supported

Potential Uses for Freevo

- DVR: Schedule TV recordings and view live TV through your TV capture card
- Movie Player: Play DVD, DIVX, VCD...anything mplayer will render
- Music Jukebox: Stream your collection of music to your TV
- Game station: Play Linux games (tuxracer!) and game system emulators on your TV
- FM and Web Radio: Play various forms of radio on your TV (depending on your hardware configuration)
- RSS Feed Reader: Download headlines from your favorite sites and read them on your TV
- Many more including: Weather, Home automation system...

Benefits of Freevo vs. MythTV

- Allows the use of a variety of external programs for playback/encoding (mplayer, xine, tvtime, vlc, xmms)
- Written in python, so it's easier to debug and contribute to.
- Larger variety of plugins
- Quicker release cycle
- Runs on BSD
- Uses SQLite which requires less resources than MySQL
- I got it to work!

Installing on Debian “Etch”

Add the following to your “sources.list” file

deb http://debian.geole.info/ etch main contrib non-free

deb http://debian-multimedia.org etch main

Run the following command

$ apt-get update

$ apt-get install freevo freevo-media python-freevo
w32codecs mplayer

Configure on Debian “Etch”

Modify the following files (under /etc/freevo)

freevo.conf – global settings for freevo

local_config.py – detailed configuration should go here, note that this file is a python file that will be parsed accordingly (syntax matters)

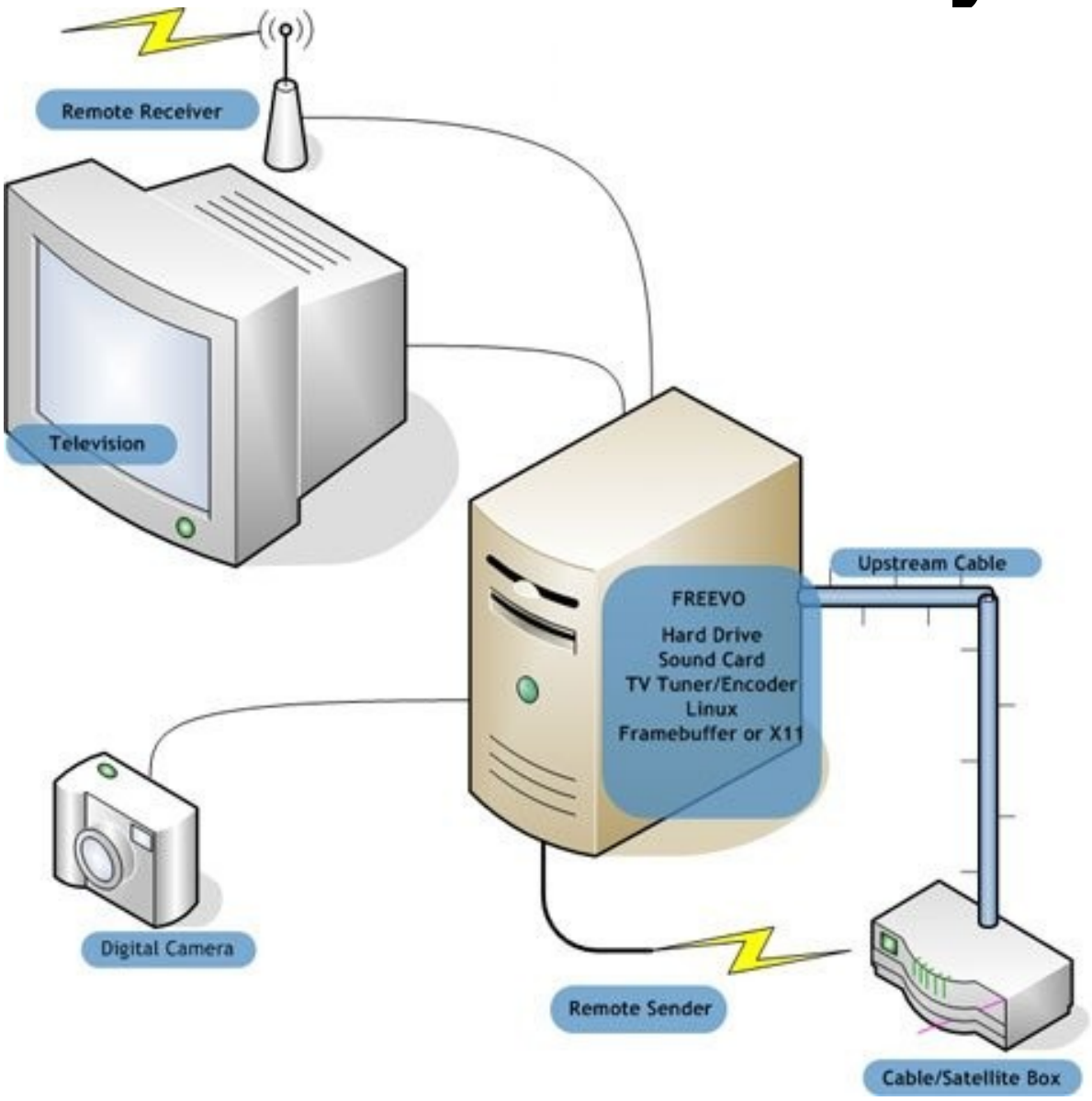
.fxd files – XML-style files that can be associated with directories or individual files. Freevo generates these on it's own for most files, but you are free to create/modify your own

Running Freevo

A typical Freevo install has the following (separate) processes:

- Freevo client – runs the visible part of Freevo (either on the Framebuffer or in a X11 session)
- Recordserver – Controls the scheduling and recording of shows, performs the DVR function
- Webserver – Acts as a browser-based interface for the other Freevo functions
- Encodeserver – Keeps track of new recordings and encodes them into a less-space intensive format (new in the 1.7.x series)

Freevo System



My Setup

- Debian “Etch”
- AthlonXP 2000
  512MB Ram
- Hauppage PVR-150
- Nvidia Geforce 4 MX
  with TV-out
- PCI WIFI Card
- Soundblaster Card
- 500 GB of storage

freevo

Links

For more information:

- Homepage:
  http://www.freevo.org
- Debian Repository:
  http://debian.geole.info/
- Freevo vs. MythTV comparison:
  http://www.labowicz.com/blog/freevo_vs_mythtv.php
- Linux.com Freevo overview:
  http://www.linux.com/articles/114146

Questions?