

LinHES - Bug # 290: Recent update breaks sound output on my system

Status:	Closed	Priority:	Normal
Author:	nickca	Category:	
Created:	03/15/2009	Assignee:	jams
Updated:	12/25/2011	Due date:	12/31/1969

Description: I am using SPDIF output from the onboard Intel HDA on my system. I recently updated my system, and the following packages were replaced:

<code>

```
parted-1.8.8-2 system-templates-1.0-7 LinHES-config-1.0-314 LinHES-system-1.0-41
boost-1.37.0-1 glibc-2.9-4 pam-1.0.4-1 shadow-4.1.2.1-2 coreutils-7.1-5 openssl-0.9.8j-1
ca-certificates-20080809-30 cdparanoia-10.2-2 glib2-2.18.4-1 libcups-1.3.9-3 gtk2-2.14.7-2
linhes-scripts-1-6 miro-2.0.2-1 mjpegtools-1.9.0-2 libmpeg2-0.5.1-1 a52dec-0.7.4-4
transcode-1.1.0-4 mytharchive-0.21-8 ncurses-5.7-2 pygobject-2.16.0-1 pygtk-2.14.1-1
readline-5.2.013-2 sdl-1.2.13-3 sudo-1.7.0-3 util-linux-ng-2.14.2-1 wpa_supplicant-0.5.11-1
xscreensaver-5.08-3
```

</code>

Something in one of these packages caused no sound output from mplayer. I looked in the log and found this:

<code>

```
[AO_ALSA] alsa-lib: confmisc.c:1286:(snd_func_refer) Unable to find definition
'cards.CX88x.pcm.iec958.0:CARD=0,A
ES0=4,AES1=130,AES2=0,AES3=2'
```

</code>

Fortunately, I knew what that meant: the CX88 driver is grabbing ALSA's index 0. I looked at /proc/asound/pcm, and confirmed it:

<code>

```
00-00: CX88 Digital : CX88 Digital : capture 1
01-00: ALC888 Analog : ALC888 Analog : playback 1 : capture 1
01-01: ALC888 Digital : ALC888 Digital : playback 1 : capture 1
01-02: ALC888 Analog : ALC888 Analog : capture 1
```

</code>

Also fortunately, I knew how to fix that. I created the file /etc/modprobe.d/alsa-base, and added these lines from the corresponding file on my Ubuntu system:

<code>

```
# Prevent abnormal drivers from grabbing index 0
options bt87x index=-2
options cx88_alsa index=-2
options saa7134-alsa index=-2
options snd-atiixp-modem index=-2
options snd-intel8x0m index=-2
options snd-via82xx-modem index=-2
options snd-usb-audio index=-2
options snd-usb-usx2y index=-2
options snd-usb-caiaq index=-2
```

</code>

Now, it's possible that the update had nothing to do with this and the CX88 driver just randomly grabbed index 0, which is always possible unless it's explicitly prevented as above, but it never happened before this latest update. It would be a really good idea to include the above /etc/modprobe.d/alsa-base file by default to

prevent this from happening.

History

03/16/2009 11:03 am - jams

There was nothing in the big update that would have affected the way modules are loaded, guess it was poor timing. Regardless of that, it does seem like a good idea to add alsa-base.

12/25/2011 03:06 pm - jams

- Target version changed from 7.2 to 6.00.04