

# Disabling the NVIDIA Nouveau driver in Ubuntu

sometimes you might want to use the most current nvidia binary driver rather than the nouveau driver package.. or you want no driver at all for whatever reason, so you need to disable the pre-installed nouveau driver..

**note** all commands below should be executed with root privileges, either prepend sudo or become root first by running `sudo su -`

edit `/etc/modprobe.d/blacklist-framebuffer.conf`

make sure these two lines are in there:

```
blacklist nouveau
blacklist nvidiafb
```

now uninstall the driver

```
sudo apt-get --purge remove xserver-xorg-video-nouveau
```

also recreate the initrd image as newer ubuntu releases load the nouveau module in there already.

```
update-initramfs -u
```

and reboot

after the reboot there should not be any nouveau related modules anymore. try

```
lsmod | grep nouveau
```

if it returns an empty result, you where successful :) if not, try adding these parameters in the file `/etc/default/grub` to the `GRUB_CMDLINE_LINUX_DEFAULT` parameter:

```
rdblacklist=nouveau nouveau.modeset=0
```

after that, you need to recreate the grub config by running

```
update-grub
```

and reboot once more. check again and if you still see nouveau modules, start googling ;) so far these steps have always worked on all ubuntu systems i had touched since 10.04

## use a repository for a packaged driver

if you want to install the nvidia driver instead of the nouveau driver, you can probably save the above

steps if you are happy with the “proprietary drivers” provided through ubuntu. however, these drivers might be rather old. if you need newer drivers, you can use a repository which provides them. and if you need to auto-install the latest nvidia driver, you can use a python utility to detect which driver package you need. Here is how this is done:

```
# install python pip to get pyvidia
apt-get -y install python-pip
pip install --upgrade pip
pip install pyvidia
pip install six
add-apt-repository -y ppa:graphics-drivers/ppa
apt-get -y update
apt-get -y install nvidia-$(pyvidia)
```

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