Linux Device Driver Installation

The majority of Linux distributions automatically load device drivers for hardware natively supported by the kernel. If the hardware is not natively supported, the device driver can be installed manually using a pre-compiled driver released by the manufacturer. We understand this is not ideal for many customers, as separate pre-compiled packages are required for each individual Linux distribution, and any time the kernel is updated. Driver releases may not coincide with the release of new kernels, so customers may be forced to delay critical updates to the Linux OS in order to continue to use the hardware.

To address this problem, some manufacturers release open-source driver packages, which allow customers to compile their own drivers based on the kernel version they are currently running. However, this process is often time consuming and complicated; customers must manually compile the driver using the kernel headers or full source code in order to utilize the hardware.

HighPoint's Auto-Compile Linux Open Source Driver Package

Although pre-compiled driver packages or open source release can meet the needs of most Linux based applications, these methods lack the benefits of traditional device driver support. When the Linux OS kernel is upgraded, the installed driver will no longer function – customers are forced to re-compile and manually load a new driver or wait for an updated pre-compiled driver package to be released by the manufacturer.

HighPoint understands the concerns customers have with both of these methods; our Auto-Compiling driver feature simplifies installation and upgrade procedures and helps to minimize downtime of the server environment:

- Auto-compiles the Linux driver when the kernel is upgraded to a newer version.
- Automatically downloads and configures the Linux driver compilation environment when installing the driver.
- Automatically configures the kernel to load the Linux driver on boot.

RocketRAID and Rocket series Host Bus Adapters with Auto-Compile Linux Open Source Driver Support

Value RAID controller series
- RocketRAID 2700, RR3700, RR800 Series

Mass storage controller series
- Rocket 750