

SuSE-11.1 installation for an Asus Eee PC 1005HA

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I just got an ASUS Eee PC 1005HA as my newest toy. In short, it works great with open-SuSE 11.1, but some struggle in the beginning is necessary since both the wired and the wireless network don't work out of the box.

1 Installation of the system

So, I just downloaded the whole DVD image from

<http://software.opensuse.org/>

and put it on an 8GB USB-memory stick, made bootable with the DVD image. How this can be done, I've learnt from

http://en.opensuse.org/SuSE_install_from_USB_drive

On th Eee PC make sure to set your BIOS to boot from the USB disk first, then reboot with the USB stick plugged in.

Since I wanted to keep the Windows XP on dual boot and for some reason the partitions could not be shrunk in the usual way (defragmentation didn't help in this respect), I kept the first Windows partition, containing the Windows XP system and formatted the second (practically empty) partition as an ext3-linux partition. For the swap partition I used another around 4 GB large partition. This is of course a bit large (given 1 GB RAM), but since I couldn't change it, I left it this way. I don't know what these two partitions really contained, but so far I have no trouble running both Linux and Windows. Anyway, as a result, my partition table looks as follows:

Device	Boot	Start	End	Blocks	Id	System
/dev/sda1		1	9407	75561696	7	HPFS/NTFS
/dev/sda2	*	9408	18807	75505500	83	Linux
/dev/sda3		18814	19451	5124735	82	Linux swap / Solaris
/dev/sda4		19452	19457	48195	ef	EFI (FAT-12/16/32)

Don't ask, what /dev/sda4 might be :-).

As a first step, I just installed the software with SuSE's package choice, using the good old kde 3.5 desktop.

2 Get the networking running

The next step is to get the **wired networking** running. The network device is a

Atheros AR8132 PCI-E Fast Ethernet Controller #2

To get this running, you have to install the `kernel-devel` package with the kernel sources (contained on the DVD image on the USB stick). Then download the driver from

<http://www.chipdrivers.com/download-get/786/191/36/>

Unpack it in a new directory and build the kernel module as described in the README file. Instead of `insmod` I had to use `modprobe`, but then everything went fine. Doing a `rcnetwork restart` went fine, and I just connected with the `knetworkmanager` via DHCP to my ISP.

The wireless is more tricky, but fortunately after a lot of trouble, trying to compile the module for the

Atheros AR9285 Wireless Network Adapter

I found out that there's already a precompiled hack as the package

`compat-wireless-kmp-pae`

which you easily find in the openSUSE software search

<http://packages.opensuse-community.org>

3 What works, what doesn't?

I'm now working with the netbook for two days, and so far have no serious issues. The only thing which does not work perfectly is **hibernate to memory**. When you wake up the netbook again the wireless networking is not working anymore, and one has to reboot. However, **hibernate to disk** works perfectly well, and everything comes up again without any trouble, including ACPI.

I haven't checked the connection to an external monitor (projector) yet. So I can't say, whether this works out of the box yet.

Disclaimer

The author is not responsible for any damage to your computer or loss of data, when you are using this information to set up your own system! Use it at your own risk!