

HowTo force screen backlight off when locking screen, general and Xfce4

Introduction

For months (years?) I have wondered why my ThinkPads fail to turn the backlight off when the screen is locked (blanked).

Solution: xset dpms force off in a Script

Unfortunately, I found no way to get the X system to turn the backlight off.

The only way to turn it of is to use xset to switch the screen off.

An according lock script might look like this:

lockscreen.sh

```
#!/bin/bash

# activate screensaver
xscreensaver-command -lock
# or: gnome-screensaver-command --lock
# or: slock
# or: xlock $*

# let the screen fade out
sleep 4

# switch the screen off
xset dpms force off
```

Xfce4 integration

The script solution above has one disadvantage: The script needs to be called. Time based screen locking and Xfce's "lock screen" button won't use it.

Fortunately, Xfce4 uses a script anyway, in the first place: `/usr/bin/xflock4`

One can simple edit this file (as root), and insert the `xset` call right before the final `exit`:

End of patched /usr/bin/xflock4

```
#[...]

# begin of change

# let the screen fade out
sleep 4

# switch the screen off
xset dpms force off

# end of change

exit 0
```

Of course this edit has to be re-done after an upgrade that provides a fresh original version of `xflock4`.