

On using the mouse

A brief introduction to LIBGPM:
the General Purpose Mouse
programming interface

Diversity of hardware

- As with SVGA devices, there are computer mice from a diversity of vendors – and no universal standard hardware design
- The customary solution: a software layer is created which ‘hides’ hardware differences
- For Linux platforms, the ‘libgpm’ package provides one such software-layer – though it was intended for text-based applications

Example: the PS/2 Mouse

The Mouse Report Format (3 bytes)

	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
Byte 0	Y-data over flow	X-data over flow	Y-data sign	X-data sign	0	Middle Button down	Right Button down	Left Button down
Byte 1	X-coordinate data (bits 7..0)							
Byte 2	Y-coordinate data (bits 7..0)							

Other types of computer mice use different report formats with possibly a different number of bytes (e.g., 4 or 5)