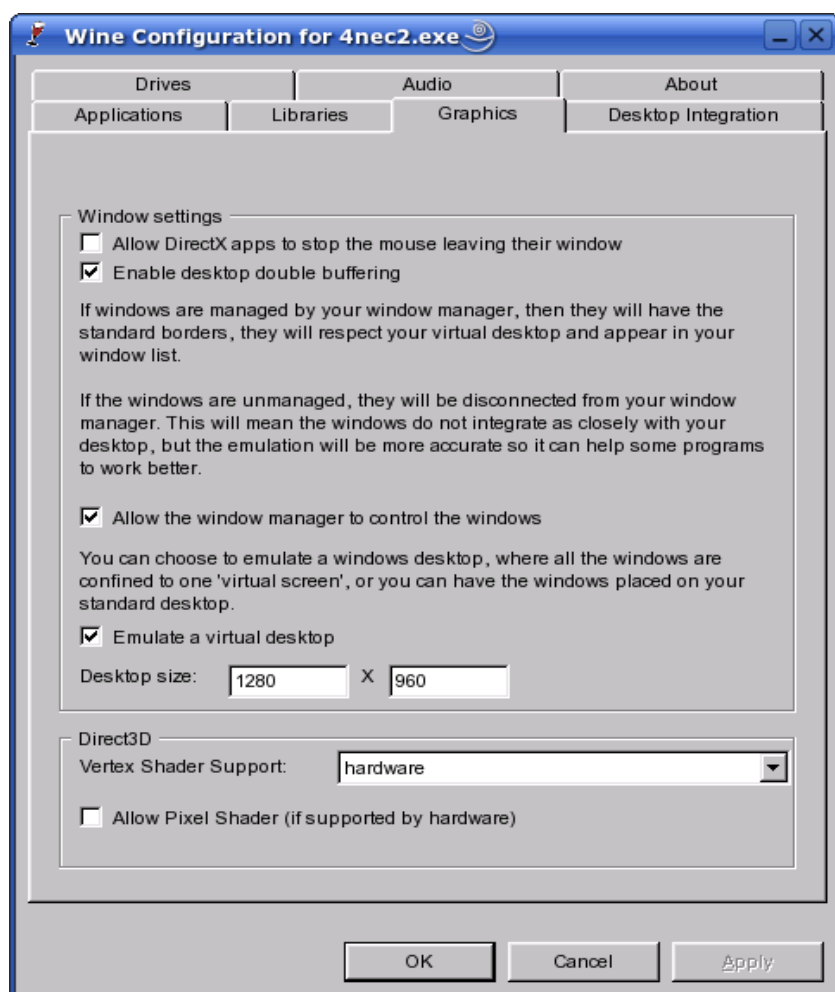4NEC2 use under Linux wine v 0.98 – 22MAR06

Hi all!

For about a year now I have been trying to get Arie's program to work properly under Linux. There were various issues, the main being the launch of the BAT file that does the calculation. I think I have finally cracked it.

I started off with SuSE 9.3's wine and found things wouldn't work. Since this was a older (2005 something) version of wine I had a look at the http://www.winehq.org website and found the latest rpm distribution for my platform. I also downloaded the latest winetools and although not happy under the later wine version it appeared to work okay. there were a few stops and starts using winetools which I wont go into here.

I did the regular install of executables from Arie's website and links. Namely 4nec2, 4nec2x, gnuplot, povray and hfits. All installs seem to work okay from the command line. I configured graphics 4nec2 under winecfg thus;

Originally I turned off window management as was outlined on Arie's website but found it very irritating that it appeared on all my desktops (like Windows!) and wouldn't go to background. The virtual desktop also made the graphics much faster. I find that graphic displays of patterns/models etc disappear if I move away from that window but they come back if I click anywhere within that window

when I return.

I note that the 3D display under 4nec2X doesnt works so well under wine but as yet I haven't tried configuring for it.

Aries' website also talks about configuring ole32 and oleaut32 as (native, builtin). This seems to be th default under winecfg. You can of course configure this application by application anyway. My default OS by the way set to W98.

The program now works fairly well. I had an early issue with wordpad where I found that I had a beta version that came with wine itself that wouldn't load a file. After copying the relevant exe and dll's from my W98 disk and renamed wordpad.exe to wordpad2.exe and changed 4nec2's settings accordingly. It works!

There was some problem launching the 4nec2 hlp file. I also tried launching it from the command line and the fonts were pretty well unusable.

Gnuplot works fine. I have yet to find a use for it!

Povray also seems to work fine but gets very upset if you change the source file while it has the file open. The default views weren't great for my radiation patterns but thats a matter of configuration in default.pov

HFits seems to crash with folder/directory not found errors even from the menu. I havent tried to discover why yet.

More to come!

Cheers Bob W5/VK2YQA