

# **Package LCD4LINUX**

## **Version 3.10.2**

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# 1. Documentation For Package LCD4LINUX

## 1.1. LCD4Linux - Display Of Status Informations On A LC-Display

### 1.1.1. Introduction

With this package it is possible to connect a LCD module via different interfaces to the fli4l (parallel and USB are available directly from the fli4l configuration, serial must be configured via the “expert” mode, see the appropriate section below).

This will display information such as date, external IP address, the current load values and of course the ISDN or DSL throughput for up- and download in kb/s and an indication bar.

Animated icons can be freely defined by the user, permanent or only when reaching definable thresholds (eg, a flash at high CPU load).

It is possible to display bars (even two bars in a row) which can move in any direction (left, right, top or bottom).

The design has virtually no limits - beside the size of the display.

In addition, the display can be extended with plugins almost without limit.

An IMON plugin exists that will query status information - that is, duration of online connection, transfer rate and quantity, a.s.o.

A software called lcd4linux is used to achieve all this.

On the homepage of the project (<https://ssl.bulix.org/projects/lcd4linux>) some images of supported displays and detailed information can be found for the respective configuration options in 'expert' mode.

### 1.1.2. Configuration Of The Display Driver

If you want to use the LCD4Linux package, the following variables have to be set:

```
OPT_LCD4LINUX='yes' (Default Setting: OPT_LCD4LINUX='no')
```

First, the desired display with its respective possible additional options and, if possible, the connection is configured. After that, what should appear on the display - and where.

If you have a display that is not predefined but is supported by lcd4linux (see above Web site of the project), you can activate the 'expert' mode and make changes directly in the actual lcd4linux configuration.

**LCD4LINUX\_DRV** Chooses the desired driver.

Possible drivers are:

HD44780	- Hitachi HD44780 based displays and compatible
LCD2USB	- LCD2USB - <a href="http://www.harbaum.org/till/lcd2usb/">http://www.harbaum.org/till/lcd2usb/</a>
GLCD2USB	- GLCD2USB - <a href="http://www.harbaum.org/till/glcd2usb/">http://www.harbaum.org/till/glcd2usb/</a>
HP12542R	- Hyunday HP12542R-DY0
CTINCLUD	- <a href="http://www.ct-maeusekino.de/">http://www.ct-maeusekino.de/</a>

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FW8888        - Allnet FW8888 internal Display  
DPF           - Patched Digital Photo Frame <http://geekparadise.de/tag/ax206/>  
EA232Graphic - Some RS232 Graphic Displays made by Electronic Assembly  
M50530       - Mitsubishi M50530 mit z.B. 24x8 digits

### **LCD4LINUX\_DRV\_MODEL** Which display model do we have?

For the driver HD44780 the following models can be chosen:

generic - Standard HD44780 Display (standard)  
Noritake - Like generic but with backlight setting via software  
Soekris - Special interface for Soekris-PC's with Busy-Check in 4-Bit mode  
HD66712 - Like HD44780 but with slightly changed Ram layout. Also for KS0073  
LCM-162 - Special interface in Nexcom Blade Servers

For the driver EA232Graphic the following models can be chosen:

GE120-5NV24 120x32  
GE128-6N9V24 128x64  
GE128-6N3V24 128x64  
GE128-7KV24 128x128  
GE240-6KV24 240x64  
GE240-6KCV24 240x64  
GE240-7KV24 240x128  
GE240-7KLWV24 240x128  
GE240-6KLWV24 240x64  
KIT120-5 120x32  
KIT129-6 128x64  
KIT160-6 160x80  
KIT160-7 160x128  
KIT240-6 240x64  
KIT240-7 240x128  
KIT320-8 320x240

### **LCD4LINUX\_DRV\_PORT** Sets the port to be used.

For the driver HD44780 the following ports exist:

parports/0 to parports/2 to address the parallel port over the Linux parport API.  
0x278, 0x378, 0x3BC to address the parallel port directly  
i2c-0 bis i2x-9 for I2C Bus driven displays.

To use i2c LCD4LINUX\\_DRV\\_BUS='i2c' has to be set.

The drivers EA232Graphic, FW8888, HP12542R can have the following parport settings:

ttyS0 a.s.o. for local serial ports (Legacy, PCI)  
ttyUSB0 a.s.o. for serial port over USB.

### **LCD4LINUX\_DRV\_SPEED** Sets the speed of the serial interface.

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Possible values:

1200, 2400, 4800, 9600, 19200, 38400, 57600, 115200

EA232Graphic has a default of 115200 Baud.

**LCD4LINUX\_DRV\_WIRE\_TYPE** Specifies the wiring of HD44780 and M50530 displays.

Possible values for HD44780:

generic # also called LCD4Linux wiring (very often)  
winamp # also a very common wiring  
soekris # special wiring for the Soekris boards

Possible values for M50530:

simple # like in the example at: <http://ssl.bulix.org/projects/lcd4linux/wiki/M50530>  
rw # the same but with RW on INIT (default)  
usebusy # like 'rw' but with busy flag check. Very slow

**LCD4LINUX\_DRV\_BUS** Bus type for HD44780 displays

Possible values:

parport # Parallel-Port (default)  
i2c # I2C

If you select I2C, the I2C bus already must have been initialized prior to the start of lcd4linux by another opt.

**LCD4LINUX\_DRV\_DEVICE** Device on the I2C bus for HD44780 displays

This is a bus ID which has to be set on the hardware.

**LCD4LINUX\_DRV\_ROTATE** - The 'serdisplib' has an interesting feature, the possibility to turn the display on the screen. This is currently used by the displays CTINCLUD and HP12542R.

**LCD4LINUX\_DRV\_CONTRAST** Specifies the contrast level. Possible values are from 0 to 255, on some displays less.

Currently supported by LCD2USB, HP12542R and some EA232Graphic and HD44780.

**LCD4LINUX\_DRV\_BRIGHTNESS** Specifies the brightness level. Possible values are from 0 to 255, on some displays less.

Currently used by LCD2USB, GLCD2USB and some HD44780.

**LCD4LINUX\_DRV\_BACKLIGHT** Turns on the backlight. Possible values: 'yes' or 'no'.

Currently used by HP12542R and some HD44780.

**LCD4LINUX\_DRV\_ASC255BUG** Some HD44780 compatible displays have a bug and show an inverted 'P' or '{' instead of solid 'Blocks'. In this case, specify 'yes' here.

**LCD4LINUX\_DRV\_CONTROLLERS** HD44780 displays can only display a maximum of 80 characters. In order to achieve more (for example, 40x4) two controllers have to be connected to one display. But also smaller displays can be equipped with 2 controllers. In such case specify '2' here.

**LCD4LINUX\_DRV\_BITS** HD44780 displays can be operated in 4- or 8-bit mode. So specify '4' or '8' here depending on the wiring. The default is '8' if nothing is specified.

**LCD4LINUX\_DRV\_USEBUSY** To use the busy flag of a HD44780 display, set 'yes' here.

**LCD4LINUX\_DRV\_OPTION\_N** Number of manually assigned driver options

**LCD4LINUX\_DRV\_OPTION\_N** Here you can specify your own options, which are not yet directly implemented by the OPT.

For example, a larger font with graphic displays:

```
LCD4LINUX\DRV\OPTION\N='1'  
LCD4LINUX\DRV\OPTION\1='Font'  
LCD4LINUX\DRV\OPTION\1\_VALUE='12x16'
```

### 1.1.3. Configuration Of The Display Layout

**LCD4LINUX\_ICONS** - LCD4Linux offers the possibility of animated icons, eg a beating heart or even a flash. These icons can be configured over the layout, however, the program needs some storage which it must reserve at startup to load the icons. Enter the number of desired icons (max. 8). If you configure more icons in the layout than you reserved space for, the 'additional' ones are not displayed.

**LCD4LINUX\_DISPLAY\_SIZE** - The size of the display. Indicate in length (characters) x height (rows). If your display is able to show 20 characters in 4 lines, please write '20x4'.

**LCD4LINUX\_DSL\_SPEED\_IN** - The download speed of your DSL connection. Used to calibrate the the download bar display.

**LCD4LINUX\_DSL\_SPEED\_OUT** - The upload speed of your DSL connection. Used to calibrate the the upload bar display.

**LCD4LINUX\_LAYOUT\_N** - The most interesting part of the package, because it is about the actual presentation - what should appear where on the screen. Enter the number of layout configuration rows.

LCD4Linux uses a concept called 'widgets'. These are basically small independent functions which do something then.

With 'LCD4LINUX\_LAYOUT\_x' this functions are assigned to their position. 'Row1.Col1:Info:' means that the scrolling info text (explanation of the widget will be done later in the text) starts on the first position of the first line, and since the info text occupies the

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whole line nothing else fits. If you like a small icon in front of the info-text you have to change the configuration slightly.

i.e. to:

```
LCD4LINUX_LAYOUT_1='Row1.Col1  :Lightning: '
LCD4LINUX_LAYOUT_2='Row1.Col2  :Info: '
```

Please note that in this example the last character of the scrolling text is 'cut off', i.e., it can not be shown, because the display is not large enough. That's not a bad thing in the case of the running text, because the characters scroll by anyway. Only with other widgets that are static and do not scroll some characters could be missing.

The widgets currently possible are listed in table 1.1. (the Info\_Tel\_x widgets have an alternating display if a 'last number' exists, this is why there is an 'OR')

Typ	Information	Character Width
:Info:	Scrolling text with name and IP	20
:Info2:	Scrolling text with name , version, Ram and CPU	20
:Date_dd_mm_yyyy:	Date with four digits for year	10
:Date_dd_mm_yy:	Date with two digits for year	8
:Time_hh_mm_ss:	Time	8
:ImonDSLQuantity_In:	DSL In Quantity	10
:ImonDSLQuantity_Out:	DSL Out Quantity	9
:ImonDSLRate_In:	DSL In Rate	9
:ImonDSLRate_Out:	DSL Out Rate	9
:ImonDSLRate_Bar:	DSL Rate Balken	20
:ImonDSLOnline_Time:	DSL Online Time	20
:ImonDSL_IP:	DSL IP or Offline	19
:ImonDSL_IP_2:	DSL IP or Date, Time	20
:ImonDSLName:	DSL Circuit Name	20
:ImonDSLCharge:	DSL Online Costs	17
:ImonISDN1Status:	ISDN Circuit Name	20
:ImonISDN2Status:	ISDN Circuit Name	20
:ImonISDN1Name:	ISDN Circuit Name	20
:ImonISDN2Name:	ISDN Circuit Name	20
:ImonISDN1Rate_Bar:	ISDN Circuit Name	20
:ImonISDN2Rate_Bar:	ISDN Circuit Name	20
:ImonISDN1Rate_In:	ISDN Circuit Name	20
:ImonISDN2Rate_In:	ISDN Circuit Name	20
:ImonISDN1Rate_Out:	ISDN Circuit Name	20
:ImonISDN2Rate_Out:	ISDN Circuit Name	20
:ImonISDN1Charge:	ISDN Circuit Name	20
:ImonISDN2Charge:	ISDN Circuit Name	20
:ImonISDN1_IP:	ISDN Circuit Name	19
:ImonISDN2_IP:	ISDN Circuit Name	19
:ImonISDN1Online_Time:	ISDN Circuit Name	20
:ImonISDN2Online_Time:	ISDN Circuit Name	20
:ImonISDN1Quantity_In:	ISDN Circuit Name	15
:ImonISDN2Quantity_In:	ISDN Circuit Name	15

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:ImonISDN1Quantity_Out:	ISDN Circuit Name	15
:ImonISDN2Quantity_Out:	ISDN Circuit Name	15
:Info_Tel_1:	No Call! -OR- Number, Date, Time	20
:Info_Tel_2:	No Call, DSL Online Time -OR- Number, Date, Time, DSL Online Time	20
:Info_Tel_3:	DSL Onl.time -OR- Call number	20
:TelNr:	Call Number last Call	20
:TelDate:	Date of last Call	8
:TelTime:	Time of last Call	8
:OS:	Display Operating System	20
:CPU:	Display CPU Version	9
:RAM:	Display total RAM	11
:RAM_FREE:	Display free RAM	16
:Busy:	CPU Usage	9
:BusyBar:	CPU Usage Bar	10
:Load:	PC Load	10
:LoadBar:	PC Load Bar	10
:Eth0:	Volume on Eth0	10
:Eth0Bar:	Rate on Eth0	14
:PPP:	Volumen on a PPP connection	9
:Uptime:	Time since last Reboot	20
:VarText1:	text -> /etc/lcd_text1.txt	max 20
:VarText2:	text -> /etc/lcd_text2.txt	max 20
:VarText3:	text -> /etc/lcd_text3.txt	max 20
:VarText4:	text -> /etc/lcd_text4.txt	max 20
:Lightning:	Icon: Lightning	1
:Heartbeat:	Icon: Heartbeat	1
:Heart:	Icon: Heart	1
:Blob:	Icon: Bubble	1
:Wave:	Icon: Wave	1
:Squirrel:	Icon: Squirrel	1
:Rain:	Icon: Rain(drops)	1

Table 1.1.: Overview of possible widgets

**LCD4LINUX\_START\_STOP\_MSG** - If this option is set to 'yes', then at system startup and during shutdown text messages will be issued.

If configuring the LCD in expert mode (LCD4LINUX\_EXPERT\_MODE='yes') four additional layouts have to be created: **Startup**, **Halt**, **Poweroff** and **Reboot**. See the example config at 'opt/etc/lcd4linux')

**LCD4LINUX\_EXPERT\_MODE** - if this option is set to 'yes' the complete configuration is ignored and the file 'lcd4linux.conf' from the directory 'config/etc/lcd4linux\' (directory must be created, an example config can be found at 'opt/etc/lcd4linux') will be copied to the router. This file has to be adapted to your needs.

**LCD4LINUX\_TEST** - this option can be used for testing the configuration 'lcd4linux.conf'.

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The lcd4linux daemon will not be started automatically, instead you have to connect to the router console (via ssh or directly) and start the daemon in debug mode - you can check any error messages and the daemon does not run as a background service, but can be stopped by 'ctrl+c'.

If you have installed an editor on the fli4l (i.e. e3) you may change /etc/lcd4linux/lcd4linux.conf to correct the configuration.

The call for the LCD4Linux debug mode is:

```
'lcd4linux -f /etc/lcd4linux/lcd4linux.conf -Fvv'
```

### 1.1.4. Pin Wiring Of A LCD Module At The Parallel Port

```
13 ----- 1 On sight on the
 \ o o o o o o o o o o o o /  parallel port,
 \ o o o o o o o o o o o o /  backside PC
25 ----- 14
```

The connection of an LCD module to the router is separated as follows:

Parallel Port Pin	Description	LCD Module	LCD Pin
18-25	GND		--
	GND		1 -- - Bridge
	R/W		5 --
	+5V		2
1	STROBE	EN(1)	6
2	D0	D0	7
3	D1	D1	8
4	D2	D2	9
5	D3	D3	10
6	D4	D4	11
7	D5	D5	12
8	D6	D6	13
9	D7	D7	14
14	Autofeed	RS	4
17	Select In	EN(2)	? (for LCDs with 2 Controllers)

For Displays with Background Lighting:

```
      HG+      15 (with Resistor 20 Ohm)
      GND      16
```

At Pin 3 the driver of a  $\geq 20\text{k}\Omega$  potentiometer between +5V and GND may be connected to adjust the contrast of the display. In my display (Conrad) Pin 3 is connected directly to ground and everything can be read properly.

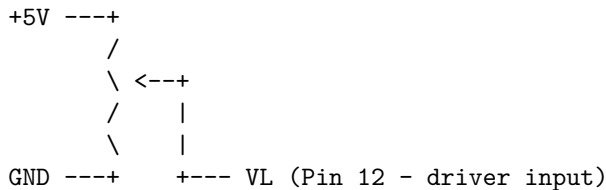
```
+5V ---+
      /
      \ <---+
      /   |
      \   |
      GND ----+   +---- VL (Pin 3 - driver input)
```

### 1.1.5. Connection Of A 4x40 Display

Since the connection of a 4x40 display is different from other displays, here is an example (Conrad - NLC 40x4x05):

Parallel Port Pin	Description	LCD Module	LCD Pin
18-25			--
	GND		13 -- - Bridge
	R/W		10 --
	+5V		14
1	STROBE	EU (Enable-Upper)	9
2	D0	D0	8
3	D1	D1	7
4	D2	D2	6
5	D3	D3	5
6	D4	D4	4
7	D5	D5	3
8	D6	D6	2
9	D7	D7	1
14	Autofeed	RS	11
17	Select In	ED (Enable-Down)	15

At Pin 12 the driver of a  $\geq 20k\Omega$  potentiometer between +5V and GND may be connected to adjust the contrast of the display. It may be sufficient to connect pin 12 directly to ground to read everything properly.



- The ED wire has to be connected to pin 17 of the parallel port.
- The display is defined as a 2x40 display in lcd.txt.
- For the type definitions for isdn\_rate 4x40 is used for row- and column size.

Unfortunately, there is no standard for the pinout of the parallel port on the motherboard. For internal use of LCD modules consult the documentation of the motherboard concerning pin wiring.

The required power supply is unfortunately not found at the parallel port because the power consumption of a LCD module is too high. Suitable for this are the connectors for mouse (PS/2), keyboard (DIN, PS/2), game port, USB, or a free connection from the PC power supply. Because some sound card manufacturers generate special signals on the game port there is no guarantee that it works in any combination. Take care and always measure before!

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