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Disabling graphical login in Debian wheezy

I have installed Debian wheezy on my machine with a netinst image, now I would like to deactivate the desktop and boot straight to the command line, not only that but I would like to not waste any resource on the X11/gnome/gdm at all if not needed.

I tried (as root)

```
update-rc.d -f gdm remove
update-rc.d -f gdm3 remove
update-rc.d -f wdm remove
```

but Debian keeps booting into the login manager, I really don't need that, how I can deactivate this kind of boot and start X only when needed ?

[/debian](#) [/x11](#) [/startup](#) [/gdm](#) [/display-manager](#)

edited Aug 14 '13 at 22:06

 **Gilles**
306k 44 516 929

asked Aug 14 '13 at 17:02

 **user2485710**
 **403** 1 4 13

2 Answers

Look in `/etc/rc2.d/`. There are probably links to `/etc/init.d/xdm` and `/etc/init.d/kdm` which you haven't removed yet.

You can also edit the file `/etc/X11/default-display-manager`, which includes the full path to the default display manager Debian is using. If you replace the content of that file with `/bin/true`, you are probably disabling the start of any login-manager as well.

The TTYs are spawned anyways. If no login-manager is launched, TTY1 will remain the active TTY and you can just log in using the command line.

answered Aug 14 '13 at 17:19

 **Bananguin**
3,722 6 23

I'm sure i have no xfce or kde-related package installed because I just installed the "default" gnome desktop environment, I will go for `/etc/X11/default-display-manager` and see if this solves. – [user2485710](#)
Aug 14 '13 at 17:22

A quick `ls /etc/rc2.d/` would provide proof. I'm sure you have no idea what packages you never wanted have been installed. You're using Debian, not Gentoo. :-)
– [Bananguin](#) Aug 14 '13 at 17:28

- I commented out with a `#` the line inside `/etc/X11/default-display-manager` and added a new one with `/bin/true` and now it boots into a tty, or, in better terms, it doesn't boot any display manager, just like I wanted. Debian is my choice at the moment because of the really low requirements and the pre-compiled packages in the repository. I'm running it under an 800MHz single core CPU with 128Mb of ram, to run Gentoo under this system you will need ages; but Debian is perfectly fine for now.
– [user2485710](#) Aug 14 '13 at 17:40

For Debian 8 with systemctl:

```
systemctl disable gdm
```

answered Nov 20 at 13:30

 **nvd**
101 1