LCDproc Developer's Guide

The Hitchhiker's Guide to LCDproc 0.5

Guillaume Filion

gfk@logidac.com

LCDproc Developer's Guide: The Hitchhiker's Guide to LCDproc 0.5

by Guillaume Filion

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This document is a guide to LCDproc written for developers. It covers LCDproc 0.5. Users should read the user guide.

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Table of Contents

1. Introduction	1
1.1. About this Document	1
2. Shared files	2
2.1. Introduction	2
2.2. report h : Debugging and reporting	2
2.2.1. Sets reporting level and message destination	
2.2.2. Report the message to the selected destination if important enough	3
2.2.3. Send debugging information if important enough	3
2.3. LL.h : Linked Lists (Doubly-Linked Lists)	3
2.3.1. Creating a list	4
2.3.2. Changing data	4
2.3.3. Iterations throught the list	5
2.3.4. Using the list as a stack or a queue	5
2.3.5. Future	5
3. The LCDproc client language	7
3.1. Introduction	7
3.2. Opening a session	7
3.3. The various command	7
3.4. LCDd messages	15
4. Making a LCDproc driver	18
4.1. Introduction	18
4.2. Shared files specific for drivers	
4.2.1. port.h : Parallel port I/O	18
5. Adding your driver to LCDproc	21
5.1. Introduction	21
5.2. Autoconf. automake. börk börk börk!	
5.2.1. Autoconf and its friend, acinclude.m4	21
5.2.2. Automake and its friend, Makefile.am	23
5.2.3. Test your setup	24
A. GNU Free Documentation License	25
A.1. PREAMBLE	25
A.2. APPLICABILITY AND DEFINITIONS	25
A.3. VERBATIM COPYING	26
A.4. COPYING IN QUANTITY	26
A.5. MODIFICATIONS	27
A.6. COMBINING DOCUMENTS	28
A.7. COLLECTIONS OF DOCUMENTS	29
A.8. AGGREGATION WITH INDEPENDENT WORKS	29
A.9. TRANSLATION	30
A.10. TERMINATION	30
A.11. FUTURE REVISIONS OF THIS LICENSE	30
A.12. How to use this License for your documents	30

Chapter 1. Introduction

1.1. About this Document

This document is meant to be a reference for LCDproc developers. It tries to indicate you where to find the relevant information about LCDproc's inner workings.

Note: Please note that this document is still "under construction". If you run into any trouble feel free to write to the LCDproc mailing list. See http://lcdproc.org/mail.php3 for details on how to subscribe to the list.

Therefore you might want to have a look at http://lcdproc.sf.net/docs/, to get the latest version of this document, unless you want to generate it yourself from the docbook files in the CVS).

This document was written for LCDproc 0.5.

In several other places e-mails and other documents have been included in this document. The authors of those are listed below every such document.

Chapter 2. Shared files

2.1. Introduction

Here we provide functions that should be used by all parts of the program.

2.2. report.h : Debugging and reporting

To enable the debug() function on all of the software, just type: ./configure --enable-debug and recompile with 'make'.

To enable the debug() function only in specific files: 1) Configure without enabling debug (that is without --enable-debug) 2) Edit the source file that you want to debug and put the following line at the top, before the #include "report.h" line: #define DEBUG 3) Then recompile with 'make' This way, the global DEBUG macro is off but is locally enabled in certains parts of the software.

The reporting levels have the following meaning.

Reporting Levels

0 RPT_CRIT

Critical conditions: the program stops right after this. Only use this if the program is actually exited from the current function.

1 RPT_ERR

Error conditions: serious problem, program continues. Use this just before you return -1 from a function.

2 RPT_WARNING

Warning conditions: Something that the user should fix, but the program can continue without a real problem. Ex: Protocol errors from a client.

3 RPT_NOTICE

Major event in the program: (un)loading of driver, client (dis)connect.

4 RPT_INFO

Minor event in the program: the activation of a setting, details of a loaded driver, a key reservation, a keypress, a screen switch.

5 RPT_DEBUG

Insignificant event: What function has been called, what subpart of a function is being executed, what was received and sent over the socket, etc.

Levels 4 (maybe) and 5 (certainly) should be reported using the debug function. The code that this function generates will not be in the executable when compiled without debugging. This way memory and CPU cycles are saved.

report.h file defines 3 functions for debugging and reporting:

2.2.1. Sets reporting level and message destination

int set_reporting(char * application_name, int new_level, int new_dest);

Returns the content of the byte.

2.2.2. Report the message to the selected destination if important enough

void report(const int level, const char *format, ...);

Returns nothing (void).

The format parameter is the same as the one used by printf.

2.2.3. Send debugging information if important enough

Consider the debug function to be exactly the same as the report function. The only difference is that it is only compiled in if DEBUG is defined.

2.3. LL.h : Linked Lists (Doubly-Linked Lists)

2.3.1. Creating a list

To create a list, do the following:

```
LinkedList *list;
list = LL_new();
if(!list) handle_an_error();
```

The list can hold any type of data. You will need to typecast your datatype to a "void *", though. So, to add something to the list, the following would be a good way to start:

```
typedef struct my_data {
   char string[16];
   int number;
} my_data;
my_data *thingie;
for(something to something else) {
   thingie = malloc(sizeof(my_data));
   LL_AddNode(list, (void *)thingie); // typecast it to a "void *"
}
```

For errors, the general convention is that "0" means success, and a negative number means failure. Check LL.c to be sure, though.

2.3.2. Changing data

To change the data, try this:

```
thingie = (my_data *)LL_Get(list); // typecast it back to "my_data"
thingie->number = another_number;
```

You don't need to "Put" the data back, but it doesn't hurt anything.

```
LL_Put(list, (void *)thingie);
```

However, if you want to point the node's data somewhere else, you'll need to get the current data first, keep track of it, then set the data to a new location:

```
my_data * old_thingie, new_thingie;
old_thingie = (my_data *)LL_Get(list);
```

```
LL_Put(list, (void *)new_thingie);
// Now, do something with old_thingie. (maybe, free it?)
```

Or, you could just delete the node entirely and then add a new one:

```
my_data * thingie;
thingie = (my_data *)LL_DeleteNode(list);
free(thingie);
thingie->number = 666;
LL_InsertNode(list, (void *)thingie);
```

2.3.3. Iterations throught the list

To iterate on each list item, try this:

```
LL_Rewind(list);
do {
  my_data = (my_data *)LL_Get(list);
  /* ... do something to it ... */
} while(LL_Next(list) == 0);
```

2.3.4. Using the list as a stack or a queue

You can also treat the list like a stack, or a queue. Just use the following functions:

```
LL_Push() // Regular stack stuff: add, remove, peek, rotate
LL_Pop()
LL_Top()
LL_Roll()
LL_Shift() // Other end of the stack (like in perl)
LL_Unshift()
LL_Look()
LL_UnRoll()
LL_Enqueue() // Standard queue operations
LL_Dequeue()
```

There are also other goodies, like sorting and searching.

2.3.5. Future

Array-like operations will come later, to allow numerical indexing:

```
LL_nGet(list, 3);
LL_nSwap(list, 6, 13);
LL_nPut(list, -4, data); // Puts item at 4th place from the end..
```

More ideas for later:

```
LL_MoveNode(list, amount); // Slides a node to another spot in the list -- LL_MoveNode(list, -1); // moves a node back one toward the head
```

That's about it, for now... Be sure to free the list when you're done!

See LL.c for more detailed descriptions of these functions.

Chapter 3. The LCDproc client language

3.1. Introduction

The LCDproc clients, for example lcdproc, connect over the network to LCDd. In their communication they use a protocol, often refered to as the "widget language". In this chapter the widget language will be discussed.

3.2. Opening a session

The essence of talking to LCDd is quite simple. First you will need to connect to the LCDproc port (usually 13666) on the correct IP address (by default localhost). Once you have established the connection you should say "hello", to let LCDd know you are a good guy. It will respond by telling some LCDproc data, like version and screen width and height. Now your session is open and you can start sending 'real' commands.

LCDd can send a number of strings itself. As a response to your commands, it will usually send a "success" string, or a string starting with "huh" in case of any error. See further below for other strings sent by LCDd.

You can test all these commands by opening a TCP/IP connection manually, like with:

telnet localhost 13666

This way, you can check how the various commands work. It's in this case best to have no other clients. If you do have other clients, you will receive "listen" and "ignore" messages that will disturb your typing.

3.3. The various command

The commands and their parameters are listed below, along with the responses you can expect. If you need a space or a special char in a string, you should quote the string with double quotes. If you need to use a double quote, escape it with a backslash.

The LCDproc commands

hello

Opens the session with the LCDd server program. This command is required before other commands can be issued. The response will be a string in the format:

connect <name> <value> <name> <value> ...

Every name will be followed by a value. The client should read all parameters it needs and store their values. The following parameters are in use:

hello response parameters

LCDproc

Indicates the version number of LCDd.

protocol

Indicates the widget language version number. This number is only changed when the language of a newer version has become incompatible with the previous version.

wid

Tells the client the width of the attached display device.

hgt

Tells the client the height of the attached display device.

cellwid

How many pixels is a character wide (space between character cells not included)

cellhgt

How many pixels is a character high (space between character cells not included)

lcd

This word is NOT followed by a value ! Hey do we really need this word in the response string ?

client_set <attributes>

Sets attributes for the current client. The current client is the one from the connection that you send this command on, in other words: yourself.

client_set attributes

-name <name>

Sets the client's name as visible to a user.

-heartbeat on|off|open

Sets the client's heartbeat setting. This setting overrides the screen's setting, so you can enable the heartbeat for all your screens at once. If "open", which is the default, the screen's setting will be used.

-backlight on|off|toggle|open|blink|flash

Sets the client's backlight setting. This setting overrides the screen's setting, so you can enable the backlight for all your screens at once. If "open", which is the default, the screen's setting will be used. See screen_set attribute for details on the backlight modes.

screen_add <new_screen_id>

Adds a screen to be displayed. The screen will be identified by <new_screen_id>. Later you will need this id to add widgets to this screen.

screen_del <screen_id>

Removes the given screen.

screen_set <screen_id> <attributes>

Sets attributes for the given screen. The following attributes exist:

screen_set attributes

-name <name>

Sets the screen's name as visible to a user.

-wid <int>

-hgt <int>

Sets the size of the screen in characters. If unset, the full display size is assumed.

-priority <pri-class>

priority: The following priority classes exist: hidden (screen will never be visible), background (only visible when no normal info screens exist), info (normal info screen, default priority), foreground (an active client), alert (screen has an important message for you), input (the client is doing interactive input). LCDd will only show screens with the highest priority at that moment. So when there are 3 info screens and 1 foreground screen, only the foreground screen will be visible. Only background, info and foreground screens will rotate. Higher classes do not rotate because their function is not suitable for rotation.

-heartbeat on|off|open

-backlight on|off|toggle|open|blink|flash

If "open" (which is default), the state will be determined by the client's setting. "blink" is a moderately striking backlight variation, "flash" is VERY strinking.

-duration <seconds*8>

A screen will be visible for this amount of time every rotation. The value is in eights of a second.

-timeout <seconds*8>

After the screen has been visible for a total of this amount of time, it will be deleted. The value is in eights of a second. Currently the client will not be informed of the deletion (TODO?).

-cursor on|off|under|block

If on, a cursor will be visible. Depending on your hardware, this will be a hardware or software cursor. The specified cursor shape (block or under) might not be available in which case an other cursor shape will be used instead.

-cursor_x <int> -cursor_y <int>

Coordinates are always 1-based. So top-left is (1,1).

widget_add <screen_id> <new_widget_id> <widgettype> [-in <frame_id>]

Adds a widget to the given screen. The <widgetid> sets the new identifier for this widget. The following widget types exist:

widget types

string

A simple text.

title

A title bar for above the screen.

hbar

A horizontal bar.

vbar

A vertical bar.

icon

A predefined or client-defined icon.

scroller

A variation of the string type that scrolls the text horizontally or vertically.

frame

A frame with that can contain widgets itself. In fact a frame displays an other screen in it.

num

A big number. They have a size of 3x4 characters. The special number 10 is a colon, that you can use for a clock. This character is 1x4.

widget_del <screen_id> <widget_id>

Deletes the given widget from the screen.

widget_set <screen_id> <widget_id> <widget specific parameters>

Sets parameters for a widget. Because not all widgets are created equal, the various widget types require different attributes.

widget_set required parameters per widget type

```
string
```

<x> <y> <text>

title

<text>

hbar vbar

c ui

<x> <y> <length>

icon

<x> <y> <iconname>

scroller

<left> <top> <right> <bottom> <direction> <speed> <text>

direction can be "h", "m" or "v".

speed is the number of movements per rendering stroke (8 times/second).

frame

<left> <top> <right> <bottom> <width> <height> <direction> <speed>

direction can be "h" or "v".

speed is the number of movements per rendering stroke (8 times/second).

num

 $\langle x \rangle \langle int \rangle$

x is the normal character x coordinate on the display.

int is the number to display, 0 to 9. Number 10 is a special number that will place a colon.

client_add_key [-excl|-shared] {<key>}+

Tells the server that the current client wants to make use of the given key(s). If you reserve the key(s) in shared mode, other clients can still reserve these keys too. If you reserve the key(s) in exclusive mode no other client can reserve them again. Key(s) reserved in shared mode will only be returned when a screen of the current client is active. These keys can be used for interaction with a visible screen (default). Key(s) reserved in exclusive mode will be returned regardless of which screen is active. They can be used to trigger a special feature or to make a screen come to foreground. Note that you cannot reserve a key in exclusive mode when an other client has reserved it in shared mode.

client_del_key {<key>}+

Ends the reservation of the given key(s).

menu_add_item <menu_id> <new_item_id> <type>

Adds a new menuitem to a menu. The main menu of a client, will be created automatically as soon as the client adds an item. This main menu has an empty id ("") and the name is identical to the name of the client.

menu item types

action

This item should trigger an action. It consists of simple text.

checkbox

Consists of a text and a status indicator. The status can be on (Y), off (N) or gray (o).

ring

Consists of a text and a status indicator. The status can be one of the strings specified for the item.

slider

Is visible as a text. When selected, a screen comes up that shows a slider. You can set the slider using the cursor keys. When Enter is pressed, the menu returns.

numeric

Allows the user to input an integer value. Is visible as a text. When selected, a screen comes up that shows the current numeric value, that you can edit with the cursor keys and Enter. The number is ended by selecting a 'null' input digit. After that the menu returns.

alpha

Is visible as a text. When selected, a screen comes up that shows the current string value, that you can edit with the cursor keys and Enter. The string is ended by selecting a 'null' input character. After that the menu returns.

ip

Allows the user to input an ip number (v4 or v6). When selected, a screen comes up that shows an ip number that can be edited - digit by digit - via left/right (switch digit) and up/down keys

(increase/decrease).

menu

This is a submenu. It is visible as a text, with an appended '>'. When selected, the submenu becomes the active menu.

menu_del_item <menu_id> <item_id>

Removes a menuitem <item_id> from menu <menu_id>. The menu named "" is the client's main menu.

menu_set_item <menu_id> <item_id> <item_specific_options>

Sets parameters for the menuitem(s). Each item type knows different parameters.

options for the various menu items

for all item types

-text <string>

The visible text of the item.

action

-menu_result none|close|quit (none)

Sets what to do with the menu when this action is selected: none: the menu stays as it is; close: the menu closes and returns to a higher level; quit: quits the menu completely so you can foreground your app.

checkbox

-value <value>

Set the value of the item. Can be off, on or gray.

-allow_gray false|true (false)

Sets if a grayed checkbox is allowed.

ring

-value $\langle int \rangle$ (0)

Sets the index in the stringlist that is currently selected.

```
-strings <string> (empty)
```

This single string should contain the strings that can be selected. They should be tab-separated ((t).

slider

```
-value <int> (0)
    Sets its current value.
-mintext <string> ("")
```

-maxtext <string> ("")

The texts at the left and right side of the slider.

```
-minvalue <int> (0)
-maxvalue <int> (100)
```

The minimum and maximum values of the slider.

```
-stepsize <int>(1)
```

The stepsize of the slider. If you use 0, you can control the movement completely from your client.

numeric

-value <int> (0)

Sets its current value.

-minvalue <int> (0) -maxvalue <int> (100)

The minimum and maximum values that are allowed. If one of them is negative, the user will be able to enter negative numbers too.

TODO: floats!

alpha

```
-value <string> ("")
```

Sets its current value.

```
-password_char <string> ("")
```

If used, instead of the typed characters, this character will be visible.

```
-minlength <int> (0)
-maxlength <int> (10)
```

Sets the minimum and maximum allowed lengths.

```
-allow_caps false|true (true)
-allow_noncaps false|true (false)
-allow_numbers false|true (false)
```

(Dis)allow these groups of characters.

```
-allowed_extra <string> ("")
```

The chars in this string are also allowed.

ip

```
-value <string> ("192.168.1.245")
```

Set the value of the item, e.g. "192.168.1.245" (v4) or ":::ffff:ffff:ffff:ffff:ffff:(v6).

-v6 false|true (false)

Changes IP version from default v4.

menu

This is a submenu. It is visible as a text, with an appended '>'. When selected, the submenu becomes the active menu.

menuscreen_goto <menu_id>

Changes current menu to <menu_id>. Depending on the configure option --enable-permissive-menuscreen-goto the client may switch to any (if enabled) or his menus only (if not enabled).

backlight on|off|toggle|blink|flash

Set's the client's backlight state.

output on|off|<int>

Sets the general purpose output on some display modules to this value. Use "on" to set all outputs to high state, and "off" to set all to low state. The meaning of the integer value is dependent on your specific device, usually it is a bitpattern describing the state of each output line.

noop

This command does nothing and is always successful. Can be useful to be sent at regular intervals to make sure your connection is still alive.

3.4. LCDd messages

LCDd can send messages back to the client. These messages can be directly related to the last command, or generated for some other reason. Because messages can be generated at any moment, the client should read from the connection at regular intervals. A very simple client could simply ignore all received messages. Not reading the messages will cause trouble !

success

This is the reponse to a command in case everything went ok.

huh? <error-description>

This is the reponse to a command in case something has gone wrong. The description is not meant to be parsed, it's only meant for the programmer of the client. It might be that your command has only been partially executed, for example if you try to reserve 3 keys, and one fails. Your client might need to undo its actions completely.

listen <screen_id>

ignore <screen_id>

The given screen is now visible on the display (listen) or it is not visible anymore on the display (ignore).

key <key>

This message will be sent if there was a keypress that should be delivered to the current client.

menuevent <eventtype> <id> [<value>]

The user did something with a client supplied menu. The type of action can be:

select (action)

The item was activated.

update (checkbox, ring, numeric, alpha)

The item was modified by the user, so LCDd sends an updated value.

plus (slider) minus (slider)

The slider was moved to left (minus) or right (plus), so LCDd sends an updated value.

enter

This item has been entered, which means it is currently active on the screen. The client could now for example update the value of the item. If it is a menu, it may be needed to update the values of the items in it too, because they may be visible too. leave

This item has been left, so it is currenly not the (main) active item anymore.

Multiple messages may be generated by one action of the user.

Chapter 4. Making a LCDproc driver

4.1. Introduction

LCDproc is meant to be modular, it is relatively easy to add new input and output drivers to LCDproc. Actually, there are a few things that you can do to make your life easier, they are listed here.

This chapter will explain you the major steps and few gotchas of adding your own driver to LCDproc. Enjoy!

4.2. Shared files specific for drivers

Driving an LCD display is not easy; you need to address ports, to send bytes in a certain order, to respect timing, and unfortunaly no two operating system let you do this in the same way. But don't dispair! There's hope! Someone in a galaxy far far away, has allready done the dirty job for you! This dirty job has been put in shared files. These shared files are full cross platform and are automagically configured by the configure script. You only need to include them and use their functions to benefit from them.

These files are provided only for drivers, others are provided for all of LCDproc. These files are located in the shared directory, they have a dedicated chapter in this book.

4.2.1. port.h : Parallel port I/O

The file port.h, located in the server/drivers/ directory provide Input/Output and port permissions for the PC compatible parallel port, also known as the LPT port.

Of course, these functions will only work if the computer where LCDproc runs has parallel port! In these situations, the configure script will see this and disable drivers that need a parallel port.

port.h file defines 6 static inline functions for port I/O:

4.2.1.1. Read a byte from port

static inline int port_in(unsigned short int port);

Returns the content of the byte.

4.2.1.2. Write a char(byte) 'val' to port

static inline void **port_out**(unsigned short int *port*, unsigned char val);

Returns nothing (void).

4.2.1.3. Get access to a specific port

static inline int port_access(unsigned short int port);

Returns 0 if successful, -1 if failed.

4.2.1.4. Close access to a specific port

static inline int port_deny(unsigned short int port);

Returns 0 if successful, -1 if failed.

4.2.1.5. Get access to multiple sequential ports

static inline int port_access_full(unsigned short int port, unsigned short
int count);

Returns 0 if successful, -1 if failed.

4.2.1.6. Close access to multiple sequential ports

static inline int port_deny_full(unsigned short int port, unsigned short int count);

Returns 0 if successful, -1 if failed.

4.2.1.7. Example use

Chapter 5. Adding your driver to LCDproc

5.1. Introduction

LCDproc is meant to be modular, it is relatively easy to add new input and output drivers to LCDproc.

This chapter will explain you the major steps and few gotchas of adding your own driver to LCDproc. Enjoy!

5.2. Autoconf, automake, börk börk börk!

How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Configure Script

It was decided pretty early in LCDproc's life to use GNU autoconf and GNU automake. This allows LCDproc to be ported to several platforms with much less effort. It can be quite daunting to understand how autoconf & automake interact with each others and with your code, but don't be discouraged. We have taken great care in making this as simple as possible for programers to add their own driver to LCDproc. Hopefully, you'll only have to modify two files, one for autoconf and one for automake.

The first thing you need to do is to find a name for your driver, it should be as descriptive as possible; most drivers are named after their respective chipset, for example hd44780, mtc_s16209x, sed1330 and stv5730, others are named after the company that makes that particular LCD display, for example CFontz and MtxOrb. Remember that these names are case sensitive. In this chapter, we'll use myDriver (which is an absolute non-descriptive name).

5.2.1. Autoconf and its friend, acinclude.m4

You need to add your driver to function LCD_DRIVERS_SELECT of file acinclude.m4. This can be done in three steps.

5.2.1.1. Step 1

First you need to add your driver name to the list of possible choices in the help screen.

This:

```
[ drivers may be separated with commas.]
[ Possible choices are:]
[ mtxorb,cfontz,cfontz633,curses,text,lb216,]
[ hd44780,joy,irman,lirc,bayrad,glk,mtc_s16209x]
[ stv5730,sed1330,sed1520,svga,lcdm001,t6963]
[ lcterm,icp_a106]
[ \"all\" compiles all drivers],
drivers="$enableval",
```

becomes:

```
AC_ARG_ENABLE(drivers,
   [ --enable-drivers=<list> compile driver for LCDs in <list>.]
                       drivers may be separated with commas.]
    [
                       Possible choices are:]
    [
    ſ
                         mtxorb,cfontz,cfontz633,curses,text,lb216,]
    [
                         hd44780,joy,irman,lirc,bayrad,glk,mtc_s16209x]
    [
                          stv5730, sed1330, sed1520, svga, lcdm001, t6963]
    [
                          lcterm,icp_a106,myDriver]
    [
                        \"all\" compiles all drivers],
    drivers="$enableval",
```

5.2.1.2. Step 2

Second, you need to add your driver to the list of all drivers.

This:

```
if test "$drivers" = "all"; then
drivers=[mtxorb,cfontz,...biglist...,lcterm,icp_a106]
fi
```

becomes:

```
if test "$drivers" = "all"; then
drivers=[mtxorb,cfontz,...biglist...,lcterm,icp_a106,myDriver]
fi
```

5.2.1.3. Step 3

Then last, you need to add your driver to be big switch-case in this function, see below.

```
myDriver)
DRIVERS="$DRIVERS myDriver${S0}"
actdrivers=["$actdrivers myDriver"]
;;
```

If your driver only works in some platform or requires a particular library or header, you can add your autoconf test here. You can see how other drivers do it, but if you're not sure on how to do this, just send an email to the mailing list and we'll make it for you.

5.2.2. Automake and its friend, Makefile.am

Allready half of the job is done! Not to bad, wasn't it? The rest should be just as easy. In this section, you'll be adding your driver to the file server/drivers/Makefile.am. As you can guess, it's the Makefile for the drivers. This can be done in three (or two) simple steps.

5.2.2.1. Step 1

First, you need to add your driver to the list of drivers in this file, this list is called EXTRA_PROGRAMS.

This

```
EXTRA_PROGRAMS = bayrad CFontz ...biglist... text wirz_sli
```

becomes

```
EXTRA_PROGRAMS = bayrad CFontz ...biglist... text wirz_sli myDriver
```

5.2.2.2. Step 2

This second step is only needed if your driver needs a particular library. If it doesn't, you can skip to step 3.

You basically need to put you driver name followed by _LDADD and egal this to the name of the library that you need. Usually, these library are substituted by a autoconf variable, if you're not comfortable with this, you send an email to the mailing list and we'll set this up for you.

For example, we would put this for our fictional driver

```
myDriver_LDADD = @SOMESTRANGELIB@
```

5.2.2.3. Step 3

Last but not least, you need to specify which source files should be associated with your driver. You put your driver name followed by _SOURCES and egal this to a space separated list of the source and header files. See below for an example.

myDriver_SOURCES = lcd.h myDriver.c myDriver.h report.h

5.2.3. Test your setup

You're almost done! You only need to check out if you didn't made any mistake. Just run sh autogen.sh to regenerate the configure script and Makefiles, then run ./configure --enable-driver=myDriver and type make. If your driver compiles without error, then congratulations, you've just added your driver to LCDproc! Remember to submit a patch to the mailing list so that we can add it to the standard distribution.

If you had an error, just send us an email describing it to the mailing list and we'll try to help you.

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Version 1.1, March 2000

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