

Why Firefox/Mozilla/Acrobat Reader 7/other Gtk+2 based apps can not be installed/started?

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Details of the problem

Any versions included in the distribution work just fine, but if you download tarballs or installation files from other sites, maybe the official mozilla site, or acrobat, and try to install it, the installation fails or you can not start the program with an error like this:

```
SCIM: im_module_init
free(): invalid pointer 0x8265a30!
free(): invalid pointer 0x8265a08!
```

Cause

SCIM gtk IM Module and Firefox/Mozilla/Acrobat Reader 7 or any other Gtk+2 based C++ applications are binary incompatible with each other if they are not compiled with the same branches of gcc/glibc.

Solution

1. Compile and install firefox/mozilla from source package.
2. Do not use scim gtk immodule by setting `GTK_IM_MODULE=xim` globally.
3. Use [scim-bridge](#) as your gtk immodule.

If you do not want to or can not recompile the target application from source, such as acrobat reader 7, and you think the second solution is also too arbitrary, then there is another workaround.

Workaround

You can disable scim gtk immodule in some gtk programs by appending `GTK_IM_MODULE=xim` to the command. Say you want to install a new version of firefox download from mozilla official site:

```
GTK_IM_MODULE=xim ./firefox-installer
```

Of course it is too inconvenient to append the variable every time you invoke firefox. Then just edit the startup script of firefox/mozilla etc, add one line in the beginning of the file (after the first line if it begins with #!/bin/sh):

```
export GTK_IM_MODULE=xim
```

You can use this method to disable scim gtk immodule support in specific applications, rather than all of them.