



Problem:

Are Linux drivers available for the Silicon Image Sil3132 RAID controller?

Background:

The Silicon Image Sil3132 RAID controller is used on VersaLogic products such as the VL-EPHS-S1 SATA adapter board and the VL-EPMs-M1 USB and SATA module.

The Sil3132 is not a true hardware RAID controller but what is called a "FakeRAID" controller. It is a multi-channel disk controller combined with boot ROM configuration options and software drivers to assist the OS in performing RAID operations. This gives the appearance of a hardware RAID, because the RAID configuration is performed using a boot ROM screen, and the operating system can be booted from the RAID.

Solution:

Silicon Image provides proprietary Linux drivers for the Sil3132 RAID controller; however, these drivers are for the enterprise based Linux distributions SLES (SUSE) and RHEL (Red Hat). Instructions for installing these drivers are specific to these distributions and are atypical of most installations. For example, the SUSE installation involves using the Windows install CD and loading the Linux driver from a floppy disk, and then swapping the Windows install CD with the SUSE install CD. Downloads of these drivers are available below.

Silicon Image provides no Debian Linux drivers for the Sil3132 RAID controller. Debian Linux, like other distributions, supports software RAID, which is implemented in the kernel (at the OS level), and you can use software RAID with the Sil3132 controller; however, you can use software RAID with *any* kind of drive (SATA or PATA) whether a RAID controller is present on the the system or not.

Downloads:

DISCLAIMER: The Silicon Image drivers for SUSE and Red Hat have not been tested by VersaLogic. The downloads are provided so that experienced Linux users can experiment with their use. VersaLogic does not warrant their suitability for your application and cannot provide technical support on their use.

- [SUSE Download](#)
- [Red Hat Download](#)

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