Using a bluetooth remote to control Amarok 1.4.x

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By Troy Unrau | Last updated September 4, 2007 10:45 AM CT

Seb Ruiz, a member of the Amarok development team, today posted some instructions explaining how certain Bluetooth devices can be made to control Amarok 1.4. The catch is that this method is only for those that are not afraid of getting their hands dirty applying a few source code patches. The great thing is that pretty much any Java-capable cell phone or similar device can be used to remotely control Amarok which helps to turn your computer system into a more generic multimedia device.

While the method he exposes is not yet widely supported, there are other ways to get Bluetooth control over your media. Since his instructions are written with Kubuntu users in mind, these same users might consider checking out the LinuxMCE project as well, which has a wide array of remote control mechanisms that are supported.

Of course, this is only just the beginning as the LinuxMCE project is working with the KDE folks to bring their technologies right into KDE for post KDE 4.0 releases, which means that the remotes that they support will eventually work with KDE out-of-the-box. In addition, Bluetooth devices were one of the very first hardware classes to be supported by KDE 4.0's new hardware access libraries. This means it should now be easier for any KDE4 application to take advantage of Bluetooth without having to worry about the specific implementation details of any particular device.

So using Bluetooth with Amarok can be done now with the current systems for those that are a little adventurous. For those with a little patience, this combination of a Linux computer and a Bluetooth device may become much more common and easy to adopt thanks to evolving KDE technologies.

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