I want to permanently uninstall nvidia from my existing MX23
Linux so I can clone it to a machine that doesn't have nvidia.
How do I do that?

Uninstalling NVIDIA drivers completely from your MX23 Linux
system is crucial for successfully cloning it to a machine
without NVIDIA hardware [15]. A thorough removal ensures a clean
slate, preventing potential conflicts or unexpected behavior on
the new system [10]. Here's a detailed guide outlining the steps
involved, drawing from various resources to ensure a
comprehensive approach [2, 11, 13].

Preparing for NVIDIA Driver Removal

Before initiating the uninstallation process, it's essential to
back up your system [11]. This safeguard allows you to revert to
a working state if any unforeseen issues arise during the driver
removal [2]. Additionally, identify the specific NVIDIA driver
version currently installed [11]. This information can be
helpful for troubleshooting or potential reinstallation later
[11].

Step-by-Step NVIDIA Driver Uninstallation

The following steps outline a comprehensive approach to
permanently removing NVIDIA drivers from your MX23 Linux system
[2, 11, 13].

1. **Stop the Display Manager:** The display manager (e.g.,
LightDM, GDM) needs to be stopped to prevent conflicts during
the uninstallation process [6]. You can typically do this via
the command line: `sudo systemctl stop lightdm` or `sudo
systemctl stop gdm3` [6].

2. **Remove Driver Packages:** Use the package manager to
remove the NVIDIA driver packages. The exact command will depend
on how the drivers were installed [2, 10]. If installed via apt,
use: `sudo apt purge nvidia-*` [2]. This command removes the
driver packages and their configuration files [2].

3. **Remove CUDA Packages (if applicable):** If CUDA is
installed, it must also be removed [5]. Use `sudo apt purge
cuda*` to remove CUDA-related packages [5].

4. **Remove Nouveau Driver (if applicable):** The Nouveau
driver is an open-source alternative to the NVIDIA driver [8].
If you want to completely remove it, use `sudo apt purge
xserver-xorg-video-nouveau` [8]. This ensures that no remnants
of the Nouveau driver interfere with the cloning process [8].

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5. **Remove Configuration Files:** Manually remove any remaining configuration files related to NVIDIA [11]. These files are often located in `/etc/modprobe.d/` and `/usr/share/X11/xorg.conf.d/` [11]. Carefully review these directories and delete any files containing "nvidia" or "nouveau" [11].

6. **Update Initramfs:** After removing the drivers and configuration files, update the initramfs to reflect the changes [11]. This ensures that the system boots correctly without the NVIDIA drivers [11]. Use the command `sudo update-initramfs -u` [11].

7. **Reboot the System:** Finally, reboot the system to complete the uninstallation process [11]. After rebooting, verify that the NVIDIA drivers are no longer present by checking the output of `nvidia-smi` or `lspci | grep NVIDIA` [11].

Additional Considerations

*   **Manual Installation:** If the NVIDIA drivers were installed manually, the uninstallation process may require deleting the driver files directly from the `/usr/lib/nvidia/` directory [14]. This is a more advanced procedure and should be performed with caution [14].
*   **MX Linux Specifics:** MX Linux has its own tools and configurations [15]. After installing MX Linux, it's recommended to perform certain tasks, including driver management [15]. Review the MX Linux documentation for any MX-specific steps related to NVIDIA driver removal [15].
*   **Verification:** After completing the uninstallation, it's crucial to verify that the NVIDIA drivers are completely removed [11]. Use commands like `nvidia-smi` or `lspci | grep NVIDIA` to confirm that no NVIDIA-related components are still present [11].

By following these steps, you can effectively and permanently uninstall NVIDIA drivers from your MX23 Linux system, enabling a successful clone to a machine without NVIDIA hardware [2, 11, 13]. Remember to back up your system before starting and proceed with caution, especially when dealing with manual driver installations [14].

Citations:
[1] https://askubuntu.com/questions/206283/how-can-i-uninstall-a-nvidia-driver-completely
[2] https://forums.developer.nvidia.com/t/how-do-i-completly-remove-an-nvidia-driver-by-hand/238053
[3] https://forum.mxlinux.org/viewtopic.php?t=43509
[4] https://computingforgeeks.com/how-to-uninstall-manually-installed-nvidia-drivers-in-linux/

[5] _https://discussion.fedoraproject.org/t/quickest-most-efficient-method-to-uninstall-nvidia-drivers-including-cuda/76603_

[6] _https://linuxconfig.org/how-to-uninstall-the-nvidia-drivers-on-ubuntu-22-04-jammy-jellyfish-linux_

[7] _https://mxlinux.org/wiki/hardware/nvidia-driver-install-recovery/_

[8] _https://forum.level1techs.com/t/nvidia-permanently-remove-nouveau/199147_

[9] _https://massedcompute.com/faq-answers/?question=How%20to%20completely%20remove%20NVIDIA%20drivers%20from%20a%20Linux%20system_

[10] _https://forums.linuxmint.com/viewtopic.php?t=258716_

[11] _https://fmorenovr.medium.com/how-to-correctly-delete-nvidia-driver-from-your-pc-linux-ce0a74828603_

[12] _https://forum.mxlinux.org/viewtopic.php?t=80519_

[13] _https://forums.debian.net/viewtopic.php?t=154004_

[14] _https://forums.developer.nvidia.com/t/unable-to-uninstall-update-manually-installed-nvidia-driver/272046_

[15] _https://www.fosslinux.com/47527/things-to-do-after-installing-mx-linux.htm_