

Re: howto upgrade 4.8 to 4.9 without cdrom or floppy?

Source: <http://unix.derkeiler.com/Mailing-Lists/FreeBSD/hackers/2003-12/0119.html>

From: Robert Watson (rwatson_at_freebsd.org)

Date: 12/12/03

Date: Fri, 12 Dec 2003 01:38:57 -0500 (EST)
To: paul van den bergen <pvandenbergen@swin.edu.au>

On Fri, 12 Dec 2003, paul van den bergen wrote:

> on freebsd-hackers, Alfred Perlstein posted a method that allows
> boot-disk-less installation... but it requires mdconfig, a 5.1
> utility...
>
> is there a method to do this under 4.8?
>
> it seems to me that the job performed by md0 could be done with vn0 e.g.

If you're willing to build from the source tree, the buildworld/buildkernel/installkernel/reboot/installworld/mergemaster route is actually quite reliable. I just upgraded a 4.6 box to 4.9 a couple of days ago, remotely with no serial console, cdrom, or floppy, without a hitch.

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>
> do
> # ls /dev/vn*
> if empty do
> # cd /dev
> # ./MAKEDEV vn0
> # ./MAKEDEV vn1
> # vnconfig vn0 /path/to/freebsd/4.9.iso
> # mount_cd9660 /dev/vn0c /path/to/freebsd4.9
>
> or however you access the freebsd install iso disk
> the point being to get access to the /floppies/boot.flp image on the cdrom
>
> # vnconfig vn1 /path/to/freebsd4.9/floppies/boot.flp
> # mkdir /bootfloppy
> # mount_mfs /dev/vn1c /bootfloppy/

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```
> # cp /bootfloppy/kernel.gz /kernel.gz
> # cp /bootfloppy/mfsroot.gz /mfsroot.gz
>
> then reboot as described...
>
> I am about to try this out... wish me luck!
>
>
> On Mon, 1 Dec 2003 07:18 pm, Alfred Perlstein wrote:
>> I have a mini-HOWTO here that possibly be automated.
>>
>> Basically we're going to install FreeBSD over FreeBSD without
>> a floppy, cdrom or pxe.
>>
>> This depends on a loader that's compatible with your kernel
>> so if really weird lockups happen, you might not be compatible.
>>
>>
>> Anyhow, here we go:
>>
>>
>> Download the boot.flp from the release you want to install.
>>
>> Mount it like so:
>> mdconfig -a -t vnode -f boot.flp
>> # should output something like 'md0'
>> mkdir -p /mnt
>> mount /dev/md0 /mnt
>>
>> Copy the yummy bits from the install image to your root:
>> cp /mnt/kernel.gz /kernel.gz
>> cp /mnt/mfsroot.gz /mfsroot.gz
>>
>> Now reboot and interrupt the loader when it counts down the boot.
>>
>> Then type these commands into the loader:
>> unload kernel
>> load /kernel
>> load -t mfs_root /mfsroot
>> set vfs.root.mountfrom
>> boot
>>
>> Now cross your fingers once you wipe the partitions out to reinstall...
>>
>>
>> It would be cool if this could be automated[1], perhaps by setting
>> the boot partition to the swap partition and setting it up temporarily
>> as a ufs filesystem and then... oh... well...
>>
>> [1] http://www.jerkcity.com/jerkcity1426.html
>
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> --
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> *"And some run up hill and down dale, knapping the chucky stones*
> *to pieces wi' hammers, like so many road makers run daft.*
> *They say it is to see how the world was made."*
> *Sir Walter Scott, St. Ronan's Well 1824*
>
> _____
> *freebsd-hackers@freebsd.org mailing list*
> <http://lists.freebsd.org/mailman/listinfo/freebsd-hackers>
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