

## Re: "Next Generation" kernel configuration?

**Source:** <http://unix.derkeiler.com/Mailing-Lists/FreeBSD/hackers/2004-07/0240.html>

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**From:** Avleen Vig ([lists-freebsd\\_at\\_silverwraith.com](mailto:lists-freebsd_at_silverwraith.com))

**Date:** 07/21/04

Date: Wed, 21 Jul 2004 05:43:45 -0700

To: "Conrad J. Sabatier" <[conrads@cox.net](mailto:conrads@cox.net)>

On Tue, Jul 20, 2004 at 07:39:31PM -0500, Conrad J. Sabatier wrote:

> *Just musing on an idea here:*

>

> *I've been thinking for a while now about trying to write a tool to make*

> *kernel configuration easier, sort of a "make config" (as in ports) for*

> *the kernel, similar to what's available on some of the Linux distros.*

I've read over the other posts in this thread, but I cannot say I think this is a good idea. In fact, I think it's a very bad idea, but with very good intentions. Here's why..

I'm a strong proponent of user education. The FreeBSD handbook is one of the best education tools for someone who wants to use FreeBSD, right from beginner to more advanced levels.

A "config tool", while useful for beginners, would quickly result in those beginners not learning about building a kernel themselves, copying GENERIC to ``hostname -s | tr "[:lower:]" "[:upper:]"`, editing it, learning what is in LINT, remembering to look through there, etc. This process teaches users a lot about how a BSD kernel is configured, what options are available, and where to look for more options.

The end result would be more people building kernels themselves, but not knowing what is actually happening, or what more is possible. It would mean less educated users, and I don't think that is somewhere any organization needs to go (look at what happened to the average Microsoft user's IQ level, after people stopped using DOS and started having machines do the work for them).

Like I said, I think your intentions are good, but I have concerns about the suggested solution.

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