

Re: Serial console/remote install discussion

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- *From:* Jeremy Chadwick <koitsu@xxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Sat, 22 Sep 2007 05:31:19 -0700
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On Sat, Sep 22, 2007 at 12:27:14PM +0200, Achim Patzner wrote:

Am 22.09.2007 um 11:52 schrieb Dag-Erling Smørgrav:

Jeremy Chadwick <koitsu@xxxxxxxxxxx> writes:

I'd like to open up a discussion regarding FreeBSD serial console and the aspect of installation via serial console.

how about you go read loader(8) and loader.conf(5) first?

And the documentation of his server's BIOS (if there is one). I've seen people getting into hip-deep shit using serial console and BIOS VGA-to-serial replication features at the same time... At different data rates. Resulting in really cool side effects.

I can imagine the result would be fairly amusing, but it ultimately depends on how the vendor implements the whole VGA-to-serial aspect of things. For example, I think Rackable's systems (using the Phantom) do things quite a bit differently than Supermicro.

The generic walk-through description I gave at the bottom of my mail for Supermicro servers works reliably on pretty much all models made over the past 3 years. BIOS-level serial redirection is immediately released after POST, which means FreeBSD (boot0sio (optional), boot2/loader, and the kernel) are responsible from that point onwards.

I totally agree that letting the BIOS handle everything (re: VGA-to-serial) is a questionable solution/idea, which is probably why Supermicro BIOSes let you configure retaining VGA-to-serial after POST or not.

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