

RE: Using int 13 while BSD is running

Source: <http://unix.derkeiler.com/Mailing-Lists/FreeBSD/questions/2004-03/1526.html>

From: Jason Dictos (jason.dictos_at_yosemitetech.com)

Date: 03/10/04

To: 'Erik Trulsson' <ertr1013@student.uu.se>, Jason Dictos <jason.dictos@yosemitetech.com>
Date: Wed, 10 Mar 2004 09:32:03 -0800

Point well taken.

-Jason

-----Original Message-----

From: Erik Trulsson [<mailto:ertr1013@student.uu.se>]

Sent: Wednesday, March 10, 2004 9:24 AM

To: Jason Dictos

Cc: 'Sergey 'DoubleF' Zaharchenko'; Dan Nelson;
"freebsd-questions@freebsd.org"

Subject: Re: Using int 13 while BSD is running

On Wed, Mar 10, 2004 at 08:49:17AM -0800, Jason Dictos wrote:

>

>

> > *To Jason: take care not to *write* anything to the disk via int 13h.*

> > *I still don't think I understand why you are using FreeBSD for this
> specific purpose. Why if you just >spend time escaping from the OS?*

>

> *We actually _like_ protected mode, it allows us to be more flexible
> and our code doesn't have to be bastardized with 16 dos compilers ;).*
> *However in dos we have guaranteed hard drive support via int13 (Well
> almost guaranteed, but if an os can boot of the computer, we can access
> the disk), and I'm looking for the same sorta guarantee in BSD. People
> will be using this with raid controllers, scsi hard disks, and ide
> drives (Server recovery), so there will be many times when the
> hardware running the hd requires specific support, which BSD may or
> may not have, point is we dont' want to manage that.*

>

> *Make sense?*

Just because you can boot from the disk does not mean that the BIOS can read the whole disk.

As an example I have an old computer running FreeBSD with a 1GB disk. The BIOS in this computer cannot handle disks larger than 512MB (which was a quite common limitation in older BIOSs). I can however boot from this disk

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since all the files needed for booting reside below the 512MB mark. Once I have booted FreeBSD I can access the whole disk precisely because FreeBSD does *not* use the BIOS, but use its own routines.

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<Insert your favourite quote here.>
Erik Trulsson
ertr1013@student.uu.se

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