

## Re: How to make the boot menu just like I want?

**Source:** <http://unix.derkeiler.com/Mailing-Lists/FreeBSD/questions/2004-10/0971.html>

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**Date:** 10/11/04

Date: Mon, 11 Oct 2004 12:56:00 +0200 (CEST)

To: Frederick <frederickp@synology.com>

[Frederick, 2004-10-11]

- > *This is Frederick. Is there any table to list the partition number(subtype) or sysid?*
- > *I have two hard disks. The first one install windows, and the second one install freebsd.*
- > *I first install windows, then install freebsd. I use boot manager to manage my boot.*
- :
- > *So please help me to find the partition number(subtype), or tell me how to do that*
- > *to make the change.*

The FreeBSD boot manager is a very small program that lives entirely within the bootsector of the disk. It is therefore only one sector in size, or 512 bytes. To change the boot menu, you would have to recompile this program. The source code is in:

```
/usr/src/sys/boot/i386/boot0/boot0.S
```

Note, however, that this program is already exactly 512 bytes when compiled, so for every byte you put in, you need to take another one out.

On my laptop I've recompiled the boot0 program to display "Diag" for the Dell diagnostic service partition, XP in place of DOS, and FreeBSD for my FreeBSD partition. To get room for the Diag selection, I had to remove Linux from the list. I think I've lost my patches, but the boot sector code has been living happily and undisturbed on the boot sector through a lot of system updates.

Please be careful when replacing the boot sector. Your system may become unbootable, and you would have to resort to boot disks to get it back.

Cheers,  
Svein Halvor

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freebsd-questions@freebsd.org mailing list

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