

## Re: Anthony's drive issues.Re: ssh password delay

**Source:** <http://unix.derkeiler.com/Mailing-Lists/FreeBSD/questions/2005-03/3884.html>

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**From:** Anthony Atkielski ([atkielski.anthony\\_at\\_wanadoo.fr](mailto:atkielski.anthony_at_wanadoo.fr))

**Date:** 03/29/05

Date: Tue, 29 Mar 2005 21:01:46 +0200

To: freebsd-questions@freebsd.org

Ted Mittelstaedt writes:

> *He is saying that the microcode was modified and that we speculate that  
> the mods contain a bug proprietary to the HP implementation of that  
> controller.*

What makes it a `_bug_`? Why would the modified firmware contain a bug  
... but not FreeBSD?

> *Or had whatever extra code was needed for the microcode mods.*

Yes, or approached the hardware in a way that made the modifications  
irrelevant.

> *Yes, they do – I've got a Compaq professional workstation on my desk  
> at work which has a modded microcode in an Adaptec 2940U adapter card  
> (I know it's modded because the card will not work in any other  
> non-Compaq system, even where non-Compaq-branded 2940U cards will  
> work) that displays similar disk strangeness (although it doesn't  
> spew errors) This is the same scsi chipset as Anthony's Vectra.  
> (aic7880)*

And what does Compaq give you in exchange for the headache of a  
non-standard adapter card?

Can you replace Compaq's distorted adapter with a standard one, or is it  
theirs or nothing?

> *This incidentally is WHY I am speculating it's a microcode mod (and it  
> was I that started this line of discussion regarding the microcode on  
> his SCSI chipset) because I have proof positive that modded microcode  
> in other manufacturer's aic7880-based SCSI adapters has problems with  
> the ahc driver.*

How did you resolve the problem?

> *He doesn't want to run Windows (on this system at least)*

Correct. It's a more or less spare system and I'm more interesting in getting more experience with UNIX than with getting more experience with Windows. I already know plenty about Windows.

> *He wants the FreeBSD ahc driver modded so that it won't generate errors and SCSI bus resets anymore under FreeBSD.*

That would be nice, if it's a legitimate bug in the FreeBSD code (which I suspect it is). If it's a regression (i.e., a change that would break the behavior with standard hardware), then the utility of changing it is debatable (although I still wouldn't object to a version that would run on my hardware).

In any case, this wonderfully fun experience is pushing me more and more in the direction of home-built hardware, and further and further away from brand-name machines. I'm glad I decided to build my own server instead of buying that IBM eSeries machine. Who knows what problems I might have had with it?

> *Unfortunately, Anthony won't do the least bit of troubleshooting (such as pulling the Quantum disk and just running on the Seagate disk in this system to see if perhaps the problem is exacerbated by one or the other implementations of SCSI in one or the other of the disks – granted that is a long shot, but it's within the realm of possibility it might fix it) so I doubt he would do anything that the ahc driver (who most likely isn't even subscribed to freebsd-questions) tells him to do in the way of troubleshooting either.*

Anything isn't going to do anything until someone can tell him what the existing messages are saying. I don't go pulling boards every time I see a message that I don't recognize.

> *Also long forgotten in this discussion is Anthony stated once on this list that Mandrake Linux wouldn't even install on this Vectra system either.*

It stops after the splash screen, but I think that is related to the same problem that prevents FreeBSD from booting directly from disk.

> *I am not sure why he's trying to hold FreeBSD up to the driver support of Windows NT when Linux won't even talk to the card in his system.*

I don't know what Linux will or won't do, and unlike you, I'm not prepared to make wild guesses. I know only that Mandrake Linux will stall after displaying a splash screen, and that's that.

> *... and we all know that Windows has far better support for the oddest-ballist modifications of standard computer components such as SCSI adapters than FreeBSD does since they have unlimited money to buy*

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> *oddball samples of hardware to experiment with ...*

I suspect they just ask the vendor for information on the hardware.  
Even Microsoft has neither the time nor the money to test every conceivable hardware configuration.

A more likely scenario is that the vendor itself writes the driver and then has Microsoft certify it. The certification is pretty rudimentary, IIRC; essentially MS ensures that the system doesn't melt or spew acrid smoke when the driver is invoked and that's about it.

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Anthony

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