

Re: 16M RAM enough for FreeBSD 6.1?

Source: <http://unix.derkeiler.com/Mailing-Lists/FreeBSD/stable/2006-08/msg00583.html>

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Torfinn Ingolfsen <torfinn.ingolfsen@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

I have an old laptop, a Compaq Armada 1580DMT, with 16M RAM, 2GB hd, floppy and CD-rom. It doesn't have built in networking, neither wired nor wireless. It does have PC card slots. It has had FreeBSD 4.9-release installed a long time, and was recently upgraded to 4.11-release from CD, successfully.

However, when I try the 6.1-release CD (CD1), it boots as far as loading the kernel, botting the kernel, and then reboots again??

Are 16 Megs of RAM to little to install FreeBSD 6.0 or newer?

With the default configuration yes.

I recently tried to install FreeBSD 6.1-PRERELEASE on a Pentium 90 with 16 MB RAM, and hit the rebooting problem as well.

I moved the harddisk into a more powerful machine, installed FreeBSD there, build a lighter kernel and put the disk back.

NFS mounting needed a work around:
<http://www.freebsd.org/cgi/query-pr.cgi?pr=kern/94830>
but the rest worked out of the box.

In your case it's probably easier to create a disk image in Qemu, copy it to a CD and then use something that boots from a floppy, supports the CD-Rom drive and brings dd with it, to "install" the image.

Depending on your partition layout you may even be able to use your old FreeBSD installation to do that.

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(I'm not sure if it's possible to use FreeBSD to overwrite the partition it's running from).

Fabian

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