

debugging kernel options (was: Re: 6.2-PRE: Fatal Trap?)

Source: <http://unix.derkeiler.com/Mailing-Lists/FreeBSD/stable/2006-12/msg00670.html>

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 - *Date:* Sat, 30 Dec 2006 19:25:54 +0100
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Robert Watson wrote:

P.S. out of curiosity – now that I have configured kernel with DDB and KDB options, is there any performance penalty of running such kernel?

No, it shouldn't really have any effect on performance. The one thing to watch out for is that your system will no longer reboot automatically on a panic, as it will drop to the debugger, by default. You can change this by setting `debug.debugger_on_panic` to 0, in which case you will likely want to set `debug.trace_on_panic` to 1 so it prints a stack trace before rebooting (which is often sufficient, combined with the trap frame and panic message to debug the problem).

Right now these are sysctls, not tunables, but you can change the default using options `KDB_UNATTENDED` (which flips the default to not entering the debugger and rebooting) and options `KDB_TRACE` (which causes a trace to be printed on panic by default). Probably they should also be tunables so that `loader.conf` entries will work.

Great explanation, thank you. I turned on debugging on my desktop computer which, apart from normal every day use, is 'testing' STABLE by running it :) I'm perfectly fine with the defaults, at least for now.

Cheers and thanks again,

Karol

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