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Continue HD boot option?

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[herman at starshipsystems](#)

Aug 24, 2006, 7:56 AM

Post #1 of 3 (17594 views)
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Continue HD boot option?

Hi,

I have boon Googling quite a bit on this, but is it possible:

I want to build an ISOLINUX boot CD, but want one of the option to be "Continue booting from hard drive" and thus disregard booting from the kernel on the CD. Is it possible? Or what can I do to force a HD boot from ISOLINUX.CFG?

Thanks

Herman

Starship Systems

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[gustavo at compunauta](#)

Aug 24, 2006, 7:05 AM

Post #2 of 3 (17429 views)

[Permalink](#)

Re: Continue HD boot option? [[In reply to](#)]

El Jueves, 24 de Agosto de 2006 09:56, Herman van Heerden escribió:

> Hi,

>

> I have been Googling quite a bit on this, but is it possible:

>

> I want to build an ISOLINUX boot CD, but want one of the option to be

> "Continue booting from hard drive" and thus disregard booting from the

> kernel on the CD. Is it possible? Or what can I do to force a HD boot

> from ISOLINUX.CFG?

from syslinux.doc inside the syslinux package (did you read the doc?)

LOCALBOOT type [ISOLINUX, PXELINUX]

On PXELINUX, specifying "LOCALBOOT 0" instead of a "KERNEL"

option means invoking this particular label will cause a local disk boot instead of booting a kernel.

The argument 0 means perform a normal boot. The argument 4

will perform a local boot with the Universal Network Driver Interface (UNDI) driver still resident in memory. Finally, the argument 5 will perform a local boot with the entire PXE

stack, including the UNDI driver, still resident in memory.

All other values are undefined. If you don't know what the

UNDI or PXE stacks are, don't worry -- you don't want them, just specify 0. On ISOLINUX, the "type" specifies the local drive number to boot from; 0x00 is the primary floppy drive and 0x80 is the primary hard drive. The special value -1 causes ISOLINUX to report failure to the BIOS, which, on recent BIOSes, should mean that the next boot device in the boot sequence should be activated.

This labels forks for me on isolinux.cfg :

```
label haddisk
localboot 0x80
append SLX=0x80
```

```
label floppy
localboot 0x00
append SLX=0x00
```

except on some weird Compaq BIOSes, Works. And the append line I can't remember where it comes from, should work without it, I guess some patch for gfxboot that I still using for impress.

--

Gustavo Guillermo Pérez
Compunauta uLinux
www.compunauta.com

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[nazosan at gmail](mailto:nazosan@gmail.com)

Aug 24, 2006, 10:43 PM

Post #3 of 3 (17411 views)

[Permalink](#)

Re: Continue HD boot option? [[In reply to](#)]

On 8/24/06, Gustavo Guillermo Pérez <gustavo [at] compunauta> wrote:
> El Jueves, 24 de Agosto de 2006 09:56, Herman van Heerden escribió:
> > Hi,
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> > I have boon Googling quite a bit on this, but is it possible:
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> > from ISOLINUX.CFG?
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read the doc?)
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> LOCALBOOT type [ISOLINUX, PXELINUX]
> On PXELINUX, specifying "LOCALBOOT 0" instead of a
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> option means invoking this particular label will cause a
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> disk boot instead of booting a kernel.
> The argument 0 means perform a normal boot. The
argument 4
> will perform a local boot with the Universal Network
Driver
> Interface (UNDI) driver still resident in memory. Finally,
> the argument 5 will perform a local boot with the entire
PXE
> stack, including the UNDI driver, still resident in memory.
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impress.
>
> --
> Gustavo Guillermo Pérez
> Compunauta uLinux

> www.compunauta.com
>
>
>
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>
>

Yes, that should work most of the time. On some BIOSes, localboot won't work though. It uses a code in the standard, but, well, you know how it is with BIOSes if you've hung around here very long. The general impression I have is that if it turns on and boots, they stamp an ok on it and ship it out.

The alternative, should you need it is to use the chainloader, which is the chain.c32 module (in the com32/modules folder of the syslinux archive.) You load this and append either "hd# #" or "fd#" and it will boot the drive and partition that you gave it (I think you can get away with not specifying a partition for the harddrive as well.) It starts numbering drives from 0 (eg hd0 corresponds roughly to /dev/hda) and it starts numbering partitions from 1. The reason it numbers partitions from 1 is because if you specify 0 it tells it to boot the MBR.

Localboot hasn't been a high priority in syslinux due to the fact that the chainloader exists and that so many BIOSes are completely unreliable with localboot. It should more or less guarantee as close to 100% compatibility as you get. So, here's a sample line from a bootable DVD I made:

```
LABEL cont  
MENU LABEL Continue Bootup  
KERNEL chain.c32  
APPEND hd0 0
```

I set this as the default timeout on my boot disc and if no one presses a key within a certain period of time it continues

the bootup
process -- kind of like how the Windows installation discs
use.

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