

Re: debian sucks aka i cant get it to install

Source: <http://linux.derkeiler.com/Mailing-Lists/Debian/2004-02/0786.html>

From: Erich Waelde (Erich.Waelde_at_t-online.de)

Date: 02/05/04

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To: debian-user@lists.debian.org, debian@merk.caltech.edu

Hi,

A `_little_more_` detail is definitely needed to help you.

1. What machine are you using?
desktop/laptop ...
Processor/how much memory?
ide/scsi/sata disk ... ?
2. Is another Linux distro working on this system?
3. Can you boot with Knoppix? (<http://www.knoppix.org>)
4. What boot image did you use and where did you get it from?
I suggest to use

http://gluck.debian.org/cdimage/testing/sid_d-i/netinst/>/daily/sarge-<your_arch>-netinst.iso

where `<your_arch>` is one of alpha hppa i386 ia64 powerpc, and more in the works (size approx. 120 MB). These are the "bleeding edge" images, but they are the most recent ones, unless you download the CVS sources and built it yourself (not so simple)

I guess you did use some image of the new installer, because the error messages indicate that. Read on.

5. What is the exact error message, and can you reproduce it?

*> everal times i've gotten a debootstrap error because awk was
> already there*

That error is a known bug: if you choose "install base system" again `_without_recreating_the_filesystem_`. So: go back to "Configure and mount partitions" and allow to unmount everything.

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> *encountered while processing:*
> *libopenjdk8*
> *libgnutils7*
> *exim4-daemon-light*
> *mailx*
> *at*
> *exim4*

This is also a known error on some images, but is fixed in the images mentioned above (unmet dependency).

> */usr/sbin/debootstrap: 1: sleep: not found*

This is only irritating and can be safely ignored.

6. If you have more Debian systems at hand ... then get grub-disk, create a nice boot floppy, READ THE DOCs, and use that to boot your new installation. Provided you have gotten everything right, and grub can find your new installation and boot it, then you can always install the boot loader manually.

If you prefer lilo, I do not know, how to do this. The big difference between lilo and grub is, that lilo needs *everything* in the boot sector (that's why you must run lilo after every kernel update), whereas grub can read a filesystem and thus retrieve information from the filesystem to be booted. Thus you can type in anything needed at the grub boot prompt. IMHO much better to fix anything broken.

7. The installation should provide a file install-report (or similar) in /root. This will point you to the debian-boot mailing list, along with a list of information that you should provide.

8. If you do not want to mess with the new installer ---- although I think it is quite usable now ---- then I suggest to download the first woody CD, install a minimal system, and upgrade to "testing" aka "sarge" as someone else has already suggested.

Hope this helps.

How about subject: installation of sarge fails on IBM Thinkpad or something similar?

Cheers,
Erich

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