

# FC6 (&7) netboot

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Hi,

I'm trying to get FC6 working on a diskless system. I hope this is the correct list to discuss this topic, if not please ignore this message.

As I mentioned, I'm trying to get FC6 to work in a diskless system. To do this I first installed FC6 in a VMware (with disk). I'm using that as the "example" system.

I'm following the instructions provided in the documentation of the `system-config-netboot-0.1.41-1.FC6` package. After rsyncing over the files to the NFS server, setting up DHCP and TFTP servers it's time for the first attempt. The diskless client is a vmware, configured to boot over the network (PXE).

With the first attempt, the system stops with the following error:  
"Mounting rot filesystem: /nfsroots/fc6-diskless/root from 192.168.254.254  
mount: wrong fs type, bad option, bad superblock on  
192.168.254.254:/nfsroots/fc6-diskless/root,  
missing codepage r other error  
In some cases useful info is found in syslog – try `dmesg | tail` or  
so."

For screenshot see: <http://eijk.homelinux.org/~stefan/fc-diskless/1.jpg>

As mentioned in [http://www.mythtv.org/wiki/index.php/Diskless\\_Frontend#Redhat\\_and\\_Fedora\\_Core](http://www.mythtv.org/wiki/index.php/Diskless_Frontend#Redhat_and_Fedora_Core) /sbin/mount.nfs is missing in the `initrd.img`. This patch adds it (although I'm not sure if `mount.nfs4` should be added too):

```
# diff -ur /usr/share/system-config-netboot/diskless/updateDiskless.orig  
/usr/share/system-config-netboot/diskless/updateDiskless  
--- /usr/share/system-config-netboot/diskless/updateDiskless.orig  
2007-04-29 23:18:24.000000000 +0200  
+++ /usr/share/system-config-netboot/diskless/updateDiskless  
2007-04-29 23:18:50.000000000 +0200  
@@ -114,7 +114,7 @@  
done;  
#/bin/cp "$ROOT"/usr/share/hwdata/pcitable $MNTPOINT/usr/share/hwdata/ || die;
```

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```
# disklessrc now uses modules.pcimap, not pcitable
-BINS="/sbin/busybox.anaconda /sbin/instrmod /sbin/modprobe /sbin/rmmod
/sbin/dhclient /bin/bash /bin/mount /sbin/route /sbin/ip /usr/bin/expr
/sbin/lspci /sbin/ifconfig /sbin/consoletype /sbin/pivot_root
/bin/hostname /bin/domainname /usr/bin/host"
+BINS="/sbin/busybox.anaconda /sbin/instrmod /sbin/modprobe /sbin/rmmod
/sbin/dhclient /bin/bash /bin/mount /sbin/mount.nfs /sbin/mount.nfs4
/sbin/route /sbin/ip /usr/bin/expr /sbin/lspci /sbin/ifconfig
/sbin/consoletype /sbin/pivot_root /bin/hostname /bin/domainname
/usr/bin/host"
# Set up links to all the busybox functions -
# may be different for different versions of busybox!
if [ ! -e $ROOT/sbin/busybox.anaconda ]; then
```

2nd attempt ended with it complaining that it couldn't pivot\_root.  
Seems that /.oldroot directory isn't created. For screenshot see:  
<http://eijk.homelinux.org/~stefan/fc-diskless/2.jpg>

After making that directory it also complains that /.snapshot isn't  
made either. Starting udev takes ages,  
<http://eijk.homelinux.org/~stefan/fc-diskless/3.jpg>

I didn't wait for it to finish, just made the directory on the NFS  
server and reset the vmware.

<http://eijk.homelinux.org/~stefan/fc-diskless/4.jpg>

After re-reading the .html pages in  
/usr/share/doc/system-config-netboot-0.1.41/ I followed the  
instructions to create a client. Changed the pxe config to reflect  
this.

```
label fc6
KERNEL vmlinuz
APPEND initrd=initrd.img root=/dev/ram0 init=disklessrc
NFSROOT=192.168.254.254:/nfsroots/fc6-diskless ramdisk_size=19102
ETHERNET=eth0 SNAPSHOT=fc6-diskless
```

resulting in this: <http://eijk.homelinux.org/~stefan/fc-diskless/5.jpg>

added "ramdisk\_blocksize=1024", from  
[http://www.mythtv.org/wiki/index.php/Diskless\\_Frontend#Redhat\\_and\\_Fedora\\_Core](http://www.mythtv.org/wiki/index.php/Diskless_Frontend#Redhat_and_Fedora_Core)

The end result is a FC6 diskless client that hangs on starting udev.  
<http://eijk.homelinux.org/~stefan/fc-diskless/6.jpg>

I'm wondering what I've missed in the documentation and what I'm doing  
wrong. I feel that I'm already correcting too many things myself -->  
this stuff should be made in a way that it just works and is trivial  
to set up. As the package version/release is still the same in  
rawhide, I guess this same package is going to be shipped with FC7.

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What would be the best way to move forward? Shall I start with filing some bugreports? Or is this not the right time to do so (freeze for fc7)?

with kind regards,

Stefan van der Eijk

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