

# bug in firstboot

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- *From:* "Gavin McDonald" <[gavitron@xxxxxxxx](mailto:gavitron@xxxxxxxx)>
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Hi All,

I found something calling itself a bug while building some RHEL ES 3.5 servers... Maybe it's known already, or even fixed in ES4? It's happened numerous times, under the same or similar conditions.

The error occurs during "firstboot" after the installer finishes. I go through to the "Red Hat Login" page, and enter my RHN account info, and click next. The machine pauses for a long while before finally popping up a dialog with a bunch of Python error messages. Closing this window moves me to the "identify system" page.

The problem occurs, because the machine has no valid network connection. (I've put the cable in eth1 not eth0, the VLAN was not yet setup, a cable was bad, the drivers for the card were in the installed kernel but weren't in the installedD kernel, etc.) I guess that once the machine has exhausted the internal list of RHN servers, it fails forward, instead of indicating that there is a network problem. That's part one of the problem.

Part two is more sinister. Once I have restored network connectivity, the python error persists. There is no way to retry connecting to RHN, as clicking back to the beginning screen of firstboot then going forward again past the "Red Hat Login" page `_immediately_` puts up the aforementioned Python error dialog. Ultimately, I am forced to back up to the license agreement and refuse it, which gives me the option to reboot the machine. Once the machine has booted with a stable network connection, all goes smoothly.

For me it's only a minor annoyance, but I can see others less-skilled getting snared in this trap, with what seems like no escape. Especially if they don't think to verify layer 1 connectivity. Has anyone else ever seen this in ES4? Should I bother to file a bug report for ES 3.5?

Regards,

Gavin McDonald

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EVI Logistic Enterprises  
email: [me@xxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:me@xxxxxxxxxxxx)

bug in firstboot

phone: (604) 313-3845

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