

## Re: [SLE] Added disk now no boot

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- *From:* Tom Peters <[tpeters@xxxxxxxxxx](mailto:tpeters@xxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Wed, 25 Jan 2006 16:53:53 -0600
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Stan is the man! Thanks for your reply.  
At 08:26 AM 1/25/2006 -0600, Stan Glasoe wrote:

On Wednesday 25 January 2006 12:22 am, Tom Peters wrote:  
> Go easy on me; pretty Linux ignorant.  
>  
> I have this old Promise Ultra 100 card that supports 4 ide drives. I  
> stuck it in an empty PCI slot in my P3 running SuSE 9.2 and booted it up,  
> or tried to. The BIOS in the card signs on, finds the maxtor 40gb that's  
> attached, then my RAID controller signs on like it used to, then I get  
> the same old boot menu I always did: Press any key to prevent booting  
> SuSE 9.2 or choose Windows, Floppy, or failsafe.

Drive on the Promise should be the master on the end of the cable attached  
to the first controller.

Ok, had switched it to that after sending last night's message. Was  
looking at the master/slave jumper upside down. Ooops. After 28+ years in  
this biz, you'd think I'd be able to figger out the obvious.

> BUT.... If I take the drive off the controller, it boots. The BIOS rom on  
> the controller signs on and says that since no drives were found, he's  
> not going to load the BIOS for the controller.

The added controller's BIOS loads and prevents your normal boot with a drive  
attached. W/o a drive its business as usual. SUSE and GRUB are getting lost  
due to the added controller and drive. Normal. You'd need to alter  
GRUB's /boot/grub/menu.lst file to account for those changes and then you  
might get further.

Cool. How? Any good resources on tinkering with the menu.lst file? Here's  
another problem: The maxtor 40 gb drive that's on the new controller is  
for proof-of-concept only. If I can get it to work, and see the Winders  
partition on it, and perhaps reformat it for Linux use, and read/write  
it, I plan to buy two BFD (big freakin' drives) to put on the new  
controller for mirroring purposes. So editing menu.lst would have to be

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done once for the 40gb to learn how, then again for the BFD's.

> Then SuSE knows there's a Promise FastTrak100/Ultra100 PDC20267 card.

Is your current RAID controller an actual PCI slot card or is it embedded on the mainboard?

It's a Compaq SmartDrive 3200 (In a non-compaq system!) But you should understand that I am definitely not attempting to boot from the RAID. Never have. There's no boot on the array-- there's a lone 13gb IDE with all the usual file systems on it for SuSE. Only user data on the RAID.

If its a slotted card then try swapping slots with the new card you are adding in and see what happens. If its embedded on mainboard check the system BIOS to see if you can change the boot order of the drives/controllers. You have to have the new card and drive installed to see if your BIOS can handle this.

It asks what I want to boot from every time. I select the IDE by make/model from the BIOS boot menu. This is as it has always been. I've tried to make the BIOS boot from IDE-1 automatically, which is what it calls that drive, but no go. I suspect if I chose SCSI DEVICE it would try to boot from the Promise card. Didn't try.

> It offers to configure it, if I say yes, it jumps into YAST for me, but it  
> only lists the existing RAID controller with no obvious way to add  
> another.

Right. There isn't anything on the card to configure. Promise controllers want to put a "RAID" stamp on devices attached to them. These cards are pseudo-hardware RAID controllers. They really only do a software type RAID anyway.

> I can't tell if SuSE is bombing because the BIOS is being loaded or  
> because there's a new drive and partition being shoved into the mix.

The latter. The new controller and drive(s) changes the drive numbering for the entire system. I'm guessing the system BIOS won't boot the new controller/drive(s) for whatever reason.

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> The partition on it is a Windows one. Hmmmm.... if it was FAT32 or NTFS,  
> can Linux read all those? If it couldn't, would it hang on boot?

Irrelevant at this time. The boot manager (GRUB or lilo or Windows) would be in charge and it doesn't really know what OS it'll boot at this time.

Ok. Good to know.

> It's hung pretty bad-- doesn't react to CAPS LOCK anymore, and certainly  
> not Ctrl-Alt-Del or anything else.

This could also be power supply issues due to too many things to power in this system. Most likely its the system BIOS not timing out on an error or stuck in a situation where it doesn't have an error to time out on.

Hope it's just a timeout or similar. Must be. I get the SuSE multi-boot choice screen and countdown just fine.

> I'm stuck with the promise card because I have only 32-bit 5v PCI slots.  
> I took it out of a working machine.

Tell me about being stuck with Promise controllers, please, I don't have enough pain and heartache from the one embedded on my mainboard. I really need to hear your tale of woe also - KIDDING! I promise never to buy a Promise controller again!

> Anyone tell me what to do next? Apart from yank the card and get on with  
> life?

There is that.

> ---- . . . . .  
> tpeters@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx (remove "nospam") N9QQB (amateur radio)  
> "HEY YOU" (loud shouting) WEB ADDRESS <http://www.mixweb.com/tpeters>  
> 43° 7' 17.2" N by 88° 6' 28.9" W, Elevation 815', Grid Square EN53wc  
> WAN/LAN/Telcom Analyst, Tech Writer, MCP, CCNA, Registered Linux User  
> 385531

