

Re: What's the Dealio with initrd, etc/fstab, initrd.img inittab, vmlinuz, grub and partitions ???

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*Source:* <http://linux.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/comp.os.linux.misc/2006-02/msg01690.html>

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- *From:* "iforone" <[floydstestemail@xxxxxxxxxx](mailto:floydstestemail@xxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* 24 Feb 2006 14:24:23 -0800
- 

Douglas Mayne wrote:

On Fri, 24 Feb 2006 07:00:47 -0800, iforone wrote:

Really? ;-)

I know, I know, – no need to rub it in ^\_ ^

Allow me to preface with system info, and install and kernel info;

SYSTEM;  
PII, 350MHz / Intel 440BX / 192MB RAM /AGP nVidia TNT Pro(32MB)/  
PCI Ethernet NIC / PCI 3Com USRobotiC Winmodem / Onboard Ensoniq  
AudioPCI 64D SB emulation / USB 1.1 only (onboard) / etc...

Not enough horsepower (CPU and RAM) for KDE to run smoothly.

See last comment...;-)

Here are the basic rules for disc partitioning (in the PC world):

it's funny – I know all that stuff for years now – just the Ext'd  
(under Linux) was throwing me...as you know, Windoze doesn't have  
"tools" like those found in \*nix.

Note: comment inline.

I apologize – I don't understand that (inline?), if it's unimportant,  
don't bother ;-)

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Caveat: I am not running Debian.

Understood

The main problem you are having is performance? I would expect that machine to have trouble with KDE. Personally, I find that KDE has too much "eye-candy" for my taste.

So do I – but not being that CLI savvy in Linux yet and basically not knowing how to even start another GUI (wm, icewm, enlightenment, fluxbox, etc) I had no choice. I would MUCH prefer to learn it from the Admin perspective. I'll refrain from further CLI vs GUI comments for now ;–). Heck; I only recently figured out how vim works (atleast well enough to edit the visudo / sudoers file)...now I here of nano(used it a few times already, nice) and pico and emacs (heard much ado about it) — also I want to get to know mc better, yet I don't even know how to differentiate between a Windows Manager, a File Manager, an ncurses based editor, a tty, etc \*sigh\*. I just found that X-Server is a GUI Server(?) meant for networking/multiple users at once and one can have MANY sessions open at once, and that either kdm, xdm, gdm can manage (?)...oh boy – I can't even get 2 wm's/fm's going at once

You can change the default window manager globally (for every user on your machine), or locally (for an individual user).

Oh – so I just need to create more users? perhaps using adduser ?

See my issue is what is all this UID, SUID 1000, Umask, etc...I mean My 1 default \$USER I created and use can't access things and see things I'd like it to easily...I'd like to understand Why not first – so I don;t keep making New Bad User configurations. Should my CD and DVD be 'rw', rather than 'ro' in /etc/fstab ?? — should the my '/' partition be listed as ro ?? as it is now ? Why is there this errors=remount at /dev/hda7 ?

```
/dev/hda7 / ext3 defaults,errors=remount-ro 0 1
```

and what the heck are the trailing 0 and 1 for ?  
oh brother...

Back on point for me;

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I'd guess first and foremost, I'd like to understand IF and WHY and HOW I can use a real installed kernel (kernel-image) ? it seems I'm booting off a small kernel image WITHOUT actually having a kernel installed ??

does

initrd.img-2.6.8-2-386

call

vmlinuz-2.6.8-2-386

or something like that ??

Should I just run Kpackage and install the appropriate

"kernel-image"(2.6.8, i386, approx 50MB ??)

Thank goodness for kpackage - 'aptitude' gives me strange "boxes as characters" and as borders for window frames and menus - and 'apt-get' is ok, but I'll never remember all the commands (and package names), and there's s-o-o-o many packages...

My PCMCIA (and/or EISA) needs to be fixed (though I have neither ISA, nor PCMCIA devices, but this Intel South Bridge (82371AB/EB PIIX4E) certainly likes to have it's support) - I chose NOT to install PCMCIA (passed it up during install) because this is a Desktop, not a Laptop, with seemingly no PCMCIA - BUT, when Knoppix Live (v3.6, 2.6.7 Kernel) was booting (both from LiveCD /and/ when installed to HDD), there was definitely PCMCIA support and "hotplug" detecting and configuring devices -- Since installing Debian I get these errors (similar only, since I can't figure out WHERE to get AIL that Boot screen Info from - I tried 'syslogd', and 'messages' many other files, but 'dmesg' seems as close as I can get);

[...]

USB Universal Host Controller Interface driver v2.2

ACPI: PCI interrupt 0000:00:07.2[D] -> GSI 9 (level, low) -> IRQ 9

uhci\_hcd 0000:00:07.2: Intel Corp. 82371AB/EB/MB PIIX4 USB

uhci\_hcd 0000:00:07.2: irq 9, io base 00001020

uhci\_hcd 0000:00:07.2: new USB bus registered, assigned bus number 1

hub 1-0:1.0: USB hub found

hub 1-0:1.0: 2 ports detected

agpgart: Detected an Intel 440BX Chipset.

agpgart: Maximum main memory to use for agp memory: 149M

agpgart: AGP aperture is 64M @ 0xf8000000

pci\_hotplug: CompactPCI Hot Plug Core version: 0.2

pci\_hotplug: PCI Hot Plug PCI Core version: 0.5

start Failures;

pciehpc: acpi\_pciehprm:\\_SB\_.PCI0 evaluate \_BBN fail=0x5

pciehpc: acpi\_pciehprm:get\_device PCI ROOT HID fail=0x5

shpchp: acpi\_shpchprm:\\_SB\_.PCI0 evaluate \_BBN fail=0x5

shpchp: acpi\_shpchprm:get\_device PCI ROOT HID fail=0x5

input: PC Speaker

inserting floppy driver for 2.6.8-2-386

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```
Floppy drive(s): fd0 is 1.44M
FDC 0 is a post-1991 82077
parport: PnPBIOS parport detected.
parport0: PC-style at 0x378 (0x778), irq 7, dma 3
[PCSPP,TRISTATE,COMPAT,ECP,DMA]
eth0: DSPCFG accepted after 0 usec.
[...]
```

ACPI is working fine and before I placed those apm= and acpi= entries into GRUB entries, I still had the same two FATAL: errors about \*hotplug\*.ko's during Bootup...I recall the PATH to problem files are here;

The FATAL bootup messages mention files (.ko) found in here;

lib/modules/2.6.8-2-386/kernel/drivers/pci/hotplug

```
$ ls -l
total 540
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 33393 2005-08-16 11:13 acpihp.ko
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 8997 2005-08-16 11:13 cpcihp_generic.ko
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 9895 2005-08-16 11:13 cpcihp_zt5550.ko
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 82017 2005-08-16 11:13 cpqphp.ko
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 6079 2005-08-16 11:13 fakephp.ko
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 112573 2005-08-16 11:13 ibmphp.ko
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 108788 2005-08-16 11:13 pciehp.ko <<----
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 40088 2005-08-16 11:13 pci_hotplug.ko
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 111944 2005-08-16 11:13 shpchp.ko <<----
```

The arrows point to specifically the two I can recall (pciehp.ko and shpchp.ko)

So how do I go about giving this system PCMCIA support ?? Through 'make' 'modprobe' ??

Do I have to Re-Run the Debian Installer from CD ??

I am not sure of the exact specifics of Debian for the global change, but start by looking in the directory /etc/X11/xinit. On my system there is a symbolic link, xinitrc, in that directory which points to the global default.

The shell script "xinitrc" is present but no symlink there;

```
$ ls -al /etc/X11/xinit
total 16
drwxr-xr-x 2 root root 4096 2006-02-15 07:54 .
drwxr-xr-x 13 root root 4096 2006-02-22 23:25 ..
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 224 2005-09-01 18:34 xinitrc
```

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-rwxr-xr-x 1 root root 53 2005-09-01 18:38 xserverrc

To change it locally (for one user), copy a file from that directory to the user's home directory, as appropriate. For example, to switch to the blackbox window manager, I would type this command:

```
doug@localhost$ cp /etc/X11/xinit/xinitrc.blackbox ~/.xinitrc
```

Ok – Thank you – I'll mark this area as "bookmarked" lol., so I can refer to them when I'm done with atleast a stable/solid hardware foundation to build on – does the tilde ' ~ ' mean \$HOME ?  
–or– \$USER ? I think /. means root and hidden(?) in this instance?

Partitions...

AFAIK, the original idea for allowing multiple partitions to be mounted as directories (/home, /usr) was to allow multiple devices to be used. That way, the 4G needed for /usr could be assigned to a 4G SCSI disk. This detail is less important now, because of the dramatic increase in disk size. There is still one obvious exception for continued use of disk partitioning– it is useful for your /home directory to be on a partition by itself. That way, your files are segregated from the OS and this creates three classes of backups: /home only, OS only, or combined complete backup.

--

Douglas Mayne

Mi Capito me thinks – the /homey is good ;)

Thank you for your help and support. so far, I really appreciate it -- I didn't want to cross-post either, and I thought of posting (also?) in linux.debian..user, but after the original dissertation, I forgot (doh!). Oh dear, look at how long this post is .....(where's Enrique? O\_O )