

Boot Linux from Floppy Disk

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About this Document

The following sample shows you how to install the boot loader Grub on a floppy disk. It does not a lot, but can help you as a start for some installation related stuff.

Problem

You can not just copy files to a floppy disk an think your computer would be able to boot from it (the same applies to Hard disks, usb memory sticks,).

After power up the motherboards Bios comes alive and tries to load and start a program that lies on a specific location on the boot device. This specific location is called boot sector. Copying data to a file moves the data never to this boot sector. A special task or program has to be used for that.

Fortunately grub offers all that for you. Grub is a boot loader that will be located in the boot sector and has also a installation feature to put it there.

Installation

It is assumed that you have a Linux computer having Grub installed.

Create a file system in your floppy disk (e.g. `mke2fs /dev/fd0`).

Mount the floppy on somewhere, say, `/mnt`.

Copy the GRUB images to the directory `/mnt/boot/grub`. Only `stage1`, `stage2` and `menu.lst` are necessary. You may not copy `*stage1_5`.

Unmount the floppy.

Run the following commands (note that the executable grub may reside in a different directory in your system, for example, `/usr/sbin`):

```
/sbin/grub --batch --device-map=/dev/null <<EOF
device (fd0) /dev/fd0
root (fd0)
setup (fd0)
quit
EOF
```