NAME

INSTALL — Installation procedure for NetBSD/i386.

CONTENTS

DESCRIPTION

About this Document

This document describes the installation procedure for NetBSD 11.1 on the *i386* platform. It is available in four different formats titled `INSTALL.`*`ext`*, where *`.ext`* is one of `.ps`, `.html`, `.more`, or `.txt`:

- `.ps` PostScript.
- `.html` Standard Internet HTML.
- `.more` The enhanced text format used on UNIX-like systems by the `more`(1) and `less`(1) pager utility programs. This is the format in which the on-line *man* pages are generally presented.
- `.txt` Plain old ASCII.

You are reading the *PostScript* version.

Quick install notes for the impatient

This section contains some brief notes describing what you need to install NetBSD 11.1 on a machine of the i386 architecture.

- Fetch files needed to install NetBSD.

  Option 1: bootable CD-ROM images or USB images containing the full distribution.

  These can be found on an FTP site near you, usually located in the `/pub/NetBSD/images/` directory. Check the list of NetBSD *mirrors:* **https://www.NetBSD.org/mirrors** for details.

  Option 2: bootable CD-ROM images from `i386/installation/cdrom/`.

  These images are bootable, but do not contain binary sets. They are intended for network installs or system repair. `boot.iso` is for VGA console installation, and `boot-com.iso` is for installation over serial console (com0, 9600 baud).

  Option 3: boot floppy images from `i386/installation/floppy/`.

  `boot1.fs` and `boot2.fs` are floppy images for VGA console installation. `boot-com1.fs` and `boot-com2.fs` are for installation via serial console (com0, 9600 baud).

- The default kernel on CD-ROMs has ACPI enabled. This is known to cause issues on a few machines which have buggy ACPI implementations.

  To boot with ACPI disabled, interrupt the menu and enter the NetBSD boot prompt. Type **`boot -2`** to boot with ACPI disabled.

- The actual binary distribution is in the `i386/binary/sets/` directory. When you boot the install image, CD-ROM or floppies, the installation program can fetch these files for you (using, e.g., ftp) if you have a network connection. There are several other methods to get the binary sets onto your machine.

  You will at a minimum need one of the kernel sets, typically `kern-GENERIC.tgz`, as well as `base.tgz` and `etc.tgz`. In a typical workstation installation you will probably want all the installation sets.

- Write the boot images

  Many commercial and freeware programs are available to burn CD-ROMs.

  If installing via USB, you must first uncompress the USB image, which is gzipped.

  ```
  $ gunzip NetBSD-11.1-i386-install.img.gz
  ```

  Next, write the USB image to a USB stick/drive. Note that this will overwrite any existing data on the device that you specify, so double check the device before running! On UNIX-like operating systems, use a command similar to the following, replacing `/dev/rsd0d` with the appropriate device for your system:

```
# dd if=NetBSD-11.1-i386-install.img of=/dev/rsd0d bs=32k
```

On Windows, you will need to use a program such as *Win32 Disk Imager:*

http://sourceforge.net/projects/win32diskimager/,

or *Rawrite32:*

https://www.NetBSD.org/˜martin/rawrite32.

If you have problems writing a raw image to a floppy, the **`rawrite.exe`** MS-DOS program in the `i386/installation/misc/` directory may be of help.

The media you just prepared will be used to boot the installation kernel, which contains all the tools required to install NetBSD.

- For third-party programs which are not part of the base NetBSD distribution, you will want to explore the **`pkgsrc`** package management system, which contains thousands of third-party software applications.

What is NetBSD?

The NetBSD Operating System is a fully functional open-source operating system derived from the University of California, Berkeley Networking Release 2 (Net/2), 4.4BSD-Lite, and 4.4BSD-Lite2 sources. NetBSD runs on many different different system architectures (ports) across a variety of distinct CPU families, and is being ported to more. The NetBSD 11.1 release contains complete binary releases for most of these system architectures, with preliminary support for the others included in source form. For more information please visit **https://www.NetBSD.org/**.

NetBSD is a completely integrated system. In addition to its highly portable, high performance kernel, NetBSD features a complete set of user utilities, compilers for several languages, the X Window System, firewall software and numerous other tools, all accompanied by full source code.

NetBSD is a creation of the members of the Internet community. Without the unique cooperation and coordination the net makes possible, NetBSD would not exist.

Changes Between The NetBSD 10 and 11 Releases

The NetBSD 11.1 release provides many significant changes, including support for many new devices, hundreds of bug fixes, new and updated kernel subsystems, and numerous userland enhancements. The result of these improvements is a stable operating system fit for production use that rivals most commercially available systems.

One important new feature in this release is the support for extended attributes and access control lists on FFS file systems.

For new installations the installer will by default disable these features, so the file system is compatible with older NetBSD releases (before 10), and allow other operating systems to mount this file systems at least in read-only mode.

If you want a new installed file system to support extended attributes, change the file system type from "FFSv2" to "FFSv2ea" in the partitioning menu. You can also convert file systems later, using the `fsck_ffs`(8) utility. More details are available in *this guide:*

https://wiki.netbsd.org/tutorials/acls_and_extended_attributes_on_ffs.

If you are upgrading from a version of NetBSD-current please also check the **Compatibility Issues With Previous NetBSD Releases**. It is impossible to completely summarize the massive development that went into the NetBSD 11.1 release. The complete list of changes can be found in

CHANGES:

https://cdn.NetBSD.org/pub/NetBSD/NetBSD-11.1/CHANGES

CHANGES-11.1:

https://cdn.NetBSD.org/pub/NetBSD/NetBSD-11.1/CHANGES-11.1

which are also present in the top level directory of the NetBSD 11.1 release tree.

Features to be removed in a later release

The following features are to be removed from NetBSD in the future:

- `groff`(1). Man pages are now handled with `mandoc`(1), and `groff`(1) can still be found in pkgsrc as `textproc/groff`.
- `pf`(4). This packet filter is obsolete and unmaintained in NetBSD. It will be eventually removed due to possible long-standing security issues and lack of multiprocessor support. New installations should use `npf`(7).

The NetBSD Foundation

The NetBSD Foundation is a tax exempt, not-for-profit 501(c)(3) corporation that devotes itself to the traditional goals and spirit of the NetBSD Project and owns the trademark of the word "NetBSD". It supports the design, development, and adoption of NetBSD worldwide. More information on the NetBSD Foundation, its composition, aims, and work can be found at: **https://www.NetBSD.org/foundation/**

Sources of NetBSD

Refer to *mirrors:* **https://www.NetBSD.org/mirrors/**

NetBSD 11.1 Release Contents

The root directory of the NetBSD 11.1 release is organized as follows:

`.../NetBSD-11.1/`

`CHANGES`	Changes between the 10.0 and 11.0 releases.
`CHANGES-11.0`	Changes between the initial 11.0 branch and final release of 11.0.
`CHANGES-11.1`	Changes between the 11.0 and the 11.1 release.
`CHANGES.prev`	Changes in previous NetBSD releases.
`LAST_MINUTE`	Last minute changes and notes about the release.
`README.files`	README describing the distribution's contents.
`images/`	Images (ISO 9660 or USB) for installing NetBSD. Depending on your system, these may be bootable.
`source/`	Source distribution sets; see below.

In addition to the files and directories listed above, there is one directory per architecture, for each of the architectures for which NetBSD 11.1 has a binary distribution.

The source distribution sets can be found in subdirectories of the `source` subdirectory of the distribution tree. They contain the complete sources to the system. The source distribution sets are as follows:

gnusrc This set contains the "gnu" sources, including the source for the compiler, assembler, groff, and the other GNU utilities in the binary distribution sets.

sharesrc This set contains the "share" sources, which include the sources for the man pages not associated with any particular program; the sources for the typesettable document set; the dictionaries; and more.

src This set contains all of the base NetBSD 11.1 sources which are not in **gnusrc**, **sharesrc**, or **syssrc**.

syssrc This set contains the sources to the NetBSD 11.1 kernel for all architectures as well as the `config`(1) utility.

xsrc This set contains the sources to the X Window System.

All the above source sets are located in the `source/sets` subdirectory of the distribution tree.

The source sets are distributed as compressed tar files. Individual sets may be unpacked into `/usr/src` with the command:

```
# cd / ; tar -zxpf set_name.tgz
```

In each of the source distribution set directories, there are files which contain the checksums of the files in the directory:

`MD5` MD5 digests in the format produced by the command:
cksum -a MD5 *file*.

`SHA512` SHA512 digests in the format produced by the command:
cksum -a SHA512 *file*.

The SHA512 digest is safer, but MD5 checksums are provided so that a wider range of operating systems can check the integrity of the release files.

NetBSD/i386 subdirectory structure

The i386-specific portion of the NetBSD 11.1 release is found in the `i386` subdirectory of the distribution: `.../NetBSD-11.1/i386/`. It contains the following files and directories:

`INSTALL.html`
`INSTALL.ps`
`INSTALL.txt`
`INSTALL.more` Installation notes in various file formats, including this file. The `.more` file contains underlined text using the `more`(1) conventions for indicating italic and bold display.

`binary/`
- `kernel/`
  - `netbsd-GENERIC.gz`
    A gzipped NetBSD kernel containing code for everything supported in this release.
  - `netbsd-MONOLITHIC.gz`
    The monolithic kernel which doesn't use kernel modules.
  - `netbsd-INSTALL.gz`
    The installation kernel.
  - `netbsd-LEGACY.gz`
    The kernel containing support for ISA (VGA and PC Display) display devices.
  - `netbsd-INSTALL_XEN3PAE_DOMU.gz`
  - `netbsd-INSTALL_XEN3_DOMU.gz`
  - `netbsd-XEN3PAE_DOMU.gz`
  - `netbsd-XEN3_DOM0.gz`
  - `netbsd-XEN3_DOMU.gz`
- `sets/` i386 binary distribution sets; see below.

`installation/`
- `cdrom/` i386 bootable cdrom images; see below.
- `floppy/` i386 boot and installation floppies; see below.
- `miniroot/` i386 kernel modules providing memory disk root file systems for expert usage.
- `misc/` Miscellaneous i386 installation utilities; see installation section below.

Binary distribution sets

The NetBSD i386 binary distribution sets contain the binaries which comprise the NetBSD 11.1 release for i386. The binary distribution sets can be found in the `i386/binary/sets` subdirectory of the NetBSD 11.1 distribution tree, and are as follows:

base The NetBSD 11.1 i386 **base** binary distribution. You *must* install this distribution set. It contains the base NetBSD utilities that are necessary for the system to run and be minimally functional.

comp Things needed for compiling programs. This set includes the system include files (`/usr/include`) and the various system libraries (except the shared libraries, which are included as part of the **base** set). This set also includes the manual pages for all of the utilities it contains, as well as the system call and library manual pages.

debug This distribution set contains debug information for all base system utilities. It is useful when reporting issues with binaries or during development. This set is huge, if the target disk is small, do not install it.

etc This distribution set contains the system configuration files that reside in `/etc` and in several other places. This set *must* be installed if you are installing the system from scratch, but should *not* be used if you are upgrading.

games This set includes the games and their manual pages.

gpufw This set includes firmware for graphical drivers.

kern-GENERIC
This set contains a NetBSD/i386 11.1 `GENERIC` kernel, named `/netbsd`. You *must* install this distribution set.

man This set includes all of the manual pages for the binaries and other software contained in the **base** set. Note that it does not include any of the manual pages that are included in the other sets.

misc This set includes the system dictionaries, the typesettable document set, and other files from `/usr/share`.

modules This set includes kernel modules to add functionality to a running system.

rescue This set includes the statically linked emergency recovery binaries installed in `/rescue`.

text This set includes NetBSD's text processing tools, including `groff`(1), all related programs, and their manual pages.

NetBSD maintains its own set of sources for the X Window System in order to assure tight integration and compatibility. These sources are based on X.Org. Binary sets for the X Window System are distributed with NetBSD. The sets are:

xbase The basic files needed for a complete X client environment. This does not include the X servers.

xcomp The extra libraries and include files needed to compile X source code.

xdebug This distribution set contains debug information for all X11 binaries. It is useful when reporting issues with these binaries or during development. This set is huge, if the target disk is small, do not install it.

xfont Fonts needed by the X server and by X clients.

xetc Configuration files for X which could be locally modified.

xserver The X server. This includes the modular Xorg server.

The i386 binary distribution sets are distributed as gzipped tar files named with the extension **.tgz**, e.g. `base.tgz`.

The instructions given for extracting the source sets work equally well for the binary sets, but it is worth noting that if you use that method, the filenames stored in the sets are relative and therefore the files are extracted *below the current directory*. Therefore, if you want to extract the binaries into your system, i.e. replace the system binaries with them, you have to run the **tar -xzpf** command from the root directory (/) of your system.

Note: Each directory in the i386 binary distribution also has its own checksum files, just as the source distribution does.

NetBSD/i386 System Requirements and Supported Devices

NetBSD 11.1 runs on all i486 or later PC-compatible systems with 1 to 32 processors. The minimal configuration for a full, standard installation is 64MB of RAM and 2GB of disk space.

NetBSD requires a numeric co-processor. The target system must have one of the following processors:

- an i486DX or compatible
- an i486SX with an i487 numeric co-processor installed
- a Pentium compatible or later processor

On extremely memory starved systems, a custom installation of NetBSD with a stripped-down kernel can be performed manually. That procedure is not documented here.

Getting the NetBSD System on to Useful Media

If you are not booting off a CD-ROM, you will need to have some floppy disks to boot off; either three 1.44 MB floppies or one 1.2 MB floppy.

Use `boot1.fs` and `boot2.fs` for VGA installation. `boot-com1.fs` and `boot-com2.fs` are available if you wish to use a serial console.

If you are using a UNIX-like system to write the floppy images to disks, you should use the `dd` command to copy the file system image(s) (.fs file) directly to the raw floppy disk. It is suggested that you read the `dd`(1) manual page or ask your system administrator to determine the correct set of arguments to use; it will be slightly different from system to system, and a comprehensive list of the possibilities is beyond the scope of this document.

If you are using Microsoft Windows to write the floppy image(s) to floppy disk, you can use the **Rawrite32** Windows program. It can be downloaded from

https://www.NetBSD.org/~martin/rawrite32.

A **rawrite** utility for the MS-DOS environment is also available in the `i386/installation/misc/` directory of the i386 install media.

Installation is supported from several media types, including:

- CD-ROM / DVD / USB stick
- FTP
- Remote NFS partition
- Tape
- Existing NetBSD partitions, if performing an upgrade

The steps necessary to prepare the distribution sets for installation depend upon which installation medium you choose. The steps for the various media are outlined below.

CD-ROM / DVD / USB stick Find out where the distribution set files are on the CD-ROM, DVD or USB stick. Likely locations are `binary/sets` and `i386/binary/sets`. (You only need to know this if you are mixing installer and installation media from different versions - the installer will know the proper default location for the sets it comes with).

Proceed to the instructions on installation.

FTP The preparations for this installation/upgrade method are easy; all you need to do is make sure that there's an FTP site from which you can retrieve the NetBSD distribution when you're about to install or upgrade. If you don't have DHCP available on your network, you will need to know the numeric IP address of that site, and, if it's not on a network directly connected to the machine on which you're installing or upgrading NetBSD, you need to know the numeric IP address of the router closest to the NetBSD machine. Finally, you need to know the numeric IP address of the NetBSD machine itself.

Once you have this information, you can proceed to the next step in the installation or upgrade process. If you're installing NetBSD from scratch, go to the section on preparing your hard disk, below. If you're upgrading an existing installation, go directly to the section on upgrading.

NFS Place the NetBSD distribution sets you wish to install into a directory on an NFS server, and make that directory mountable by the machine on which you are installing or upgrading NetBSD. This will probably require modifying the `/etc/exports` file on the NFS server and resetting its mount daemon (mountd). (Both of these actions will probably require superuser privileges on the server.)

You need to know the numeric IP address of the NFS server, and, if you don't have DHCP available on your network and the server is not on a network directly connected to the machine on which you're installing or upgrading NetBSD, you need to know the numeric IP address of the router closest to the NetBSD machine. Finally, you need to know the numeric IP address of the NetBSD machine itself.

Once the NFS server is set up properly and you have the information mentioned above, you can proceed to the next step in the installation or upgrade process. If you're installing NetBSD from scratch, go to the section on preparing your hard disk, below. If you're upgrading an existing installation, go directly to the section on upgrading.

Tape To install NetBSD from a tape, you need to make a tape that contains the distribution set files, in 'tar' format.

If you're making the tape on a UNIX-like system, the easiest way to do so is probably something like:

```
# tar -cf tape_device dist_sets
```

where *tape_device* is the name of the tape device that represents the tape drive you're using. This might be `/dev/rst0`, or something similar, but it will vary from system to system. In the above example, *dist_sets* is a list of filenames corresponding to the distribution sets that you wish to place on the tape. For instance, to put the

kern-GENERIC, base, and **etc** distributions on tape (the absolute minimum required for installation), you would do the following:

```
# cd .../NetBSD-11.1
# cd i386/binary
# tar -cf tape_device kern-GENERIC.tgz
base.tgz etc.tgz
```

Note: You still need to fill in `tape_device` in the example.

Once you have the files on the tape, you can proceed to the next step in the installation or upgrade process. If you're installing NetBSD from scratch, go to the section on preparing your hard disk, below. If you're upgrading an existing installation, go directly to the section on upgrading.

Preparing your System for NetBSD installation

First and foremost, before beginning the installation process, *make sure you have a reliable backup* of any data on your hard disk that you wish to keep. Mistakes in partitioning your hard disk may lead to data loss.

It is strongly recommended that as part of the installation procedure, you upgrade your system's BIOS to the latest version available from your system vendor. Later BIOSes often contain workarounds for CPU and chipset bugs, workarounds that cannot be provided by the operating system.

In the past, bugs fixed this way have been known to cause unpredictable behaviour and frequent system crashes with NetBSD and other UNIX-like operating systems on x86 hardware.

Before you begin, you should be aware of the geometry issues that may arise in relation to your hard disk. First of all, you should know about sector size. You can count on this to be 512 bytes; other sizes are rare (and currently not supported). Of particular interest are the number of sectors per track, the number of tracks per cylinder (also known as the number of heads), and the number of cylinders. Together they describe the disk geometry.

The BIOS has a limit of 1024 cylinders and 63 sectors per track for doing BIOS I/O. This is because of the old programming interface to the BIOS that restricts these values. Most of the big disks currently being used have more than 1024 real cylinders. Some have more than 63 sectors per track. Therefore, the BIOS can be instructed to use a fake geometry that accesses most of the disk and the fake geometry has less than or equal to 1024 cylinders and less than or equal to 63 sectors. This is possible because the disks can be addressed in a way that is not restricted to these values, and the BIOS can internally perform a translation. This can be activated in most modern BIOSes by using *Large* or *LBA* mode for the disk.

NetBSD does not have the mentioned limitations with regard to the geometry. However, since the BIOS has to be used during startup, it is important to know about the geometry the BIOS uses. The NetBSD kernel should be on a part of the disk where it can be loaded using the BIOS, within the limitations of the BIOS geometry. The install program will check this for you, and will give you a chance to correct this if this is not the case.

If you have not yet installed any other systems on the hard disk that you plan to install NetBSD on, or if you plan to use the disk entirely for NetBSD, you may wish to check your BIOS settings for the 'Large' or 'LBA' modes, and activate them for the hard disk in question. While they are not needed by NetBSD as such, doing so will remove the limitations mentioned above, and will avoid hassle should you wish to share the disk with other systems. Do *not* change these settings if you already have data on the disk that you want to preserve!

In any case, it is wise to check your the BIOS settings for the hard disk geometry before beginning the installation, and write them down. While this should usually not be needed, it enables you to verify that the install program determines these values correctly.

The geometry that the BIOS uses will be referred to as the *BIOS geometry*, the geometry that NetBSD uses is the *real geometry*.

sysinst, the NetBSD installation program, will try to discover both the real geometry and BIOS geometry.

It is *important* that **sysinst** know the proper BIOS geometry to be able to get NetBSD to boot, regardless of where on your disk you put it. It is less of a concern if the disk is going to be used entirely for NetBSD. If you intend to have several OSes on your disk, this becomes a much larger issue.

Installing the NetBSD System

Running the sysinst installation program

1. *Introduction*

   Using **sysinst**, installing NetBSD is a relatively easy process. Still, you should read this document and have it available during the installation process. This document tries to be a good guide to the installation, and as such, covers many details for the sake of completeness. Do not let this discourage you; the install program is not hard to use.

2. *Possible hardware problems*

   Should you encounter hardware problems during installation, try rebooting after unplugging removable devices you don't need for installation. Non-removable devices can be disabled with **userconf** (use **boot -c** to enter it).

3. *General*

   The following is a walk-through of the steps you will take while installing NetBSD on your hard disk. **sysinst** is a menu-driven program that guides you through the installation process. Sometimes questions will be asked, and in many cases the default answer will be displayed in brackets ("[ ]") after the question. If you wish to stop the installation, you may press `CONTROL-C` at any time, but if you do, you'll have to begin the installation process again from scratch by running the `/sysinst` program from the command prompt. It is not necessary to reboot.

4. *Quick install*

   First, let's describe a quick install. The other sections of this document go into the installation procedure in more detail, but you may find that you do not need this. If you want detailed instructions, skip to the next section. This section describes a basic installation, using a CD / DVD (or USB stick) as the install medium.

   - What you need.
     - The distribution sets (in this example, they are on the CD or DVD).
     - A minimum of 32 MB of memory installed.
     - An optical drive.
     - A hard drive with at least 600 MB of free space for a complete base install, not including room for swap. If you wish to install the X Window System as well, you will need at least 225 MB more.
   - The Quick Installation
     - Insert the CD into the drive or the USB stick into an available USB port and boot the computer from it.

```
.********************************************.
* NetBSD-11.1 Install System                 *
*                                            *
*>a: Install NetBSD to hard disk             *
* b: Upgrade NetBSD on a hard disk           *
* c: Re-install sets or install additional sets *
* d: Reboot the computer                     *
* e: Utility menu                            *
* f: Config menu                             *
* x: Exit Install System                     *
.********************************************.
```

- If you wish, you can configure some network settings immediately by choosing the **Utility menu** and then **Configure network**. It isn't actually required at this point, but it may be more convenient. Go back to the main menu.
- Choose **Install**.
- You will be guided through the setup of your disk.
- You will be asked to choose which distribution sets to install.
- When prompted, choose **CD-ROM** as the install medium if booted from CD-ROM. The default values for the path and device should be OK. If you booted using a USB image, choose **Local directory**.
- After the installation process has completed, you will be brought back to the main menu, where you should select **Reboot.**
- NetBSD will now boot. If you didn't set a password for the `root` user when prompted by **`sysinst`**, logging in as `root` and setting a password should be your first task. You are also advised to read `afterboot`(8).

5. *Booting NetBSD*

   Boot your machine. The boot loader will start, which will print a countdown and begin booting. You may want to read the boot messages, to notice your disk's name and geometry. Its name will be something like `sd0` or `wd0` and the geometry will be printed on a line that begins with its name. As mentioned above, you may need your disk's geometry when creating NetBSD's partitions. You will also need to know the name, to tell **`sysinst`** on which disk to install. The most important thing to know is that `wd0` is NetBSD's name for your first SATA/PATA disk, `wd1` the second, etc. `sd0` is your first SCSI disk, `sd1` the second, etc.

   Once NetBSD has booted and printed all the boot messages, you will be presented with a welcome message and a main menu. It will also include instructions for using the menus.

6. *Network configuration*

   If you do not intend to use networking during the installation, but you do want your machine to be configured for networking once the system is installed, you should first go to the **Utility menu** and select the **Configure network** option. If you only want to temporarily use networking during the installation, you can specify these parameters later. If you are not using the Domain Name System (DNS), you can give an empty response when asked to provide a server.

7. *Installation drive selection and parameters*

   To start the installation, select **Install NetBSD to hard disk** from the main menu.

The first thing is to identify the disk on which you want to install NetBSD. **sysinst** will report a list of disks it finds and ask you for your selection. You should see disk names like `wd0`, `wd1`, `sd0` or `sd1`.

sysinst next tries to figure out the real and BIOS geometry of your disk. It will present you with the values it found, if any, and will give you a chance to change them. Normally, the values it presents will be correct.

8. *Selecting which sets to install*

   The next step is to choose which distribution sets you wish to install. Options are provided for full, minimal, and custom installations. If you choose sets on your own, **base**, **etc**, and a kernel must be selected.

9. *Partitioning the disk*

   - Choosing which portion of the disk to use.

     You will be asked if you want to use the entire disk or only part of the disk. If you decide to use the entire disk for NetBSD, **sysinst** will check for the presence of other operating systems and you will be asked to confirm that you want to overwrite these.

   If you want to use the entire disk for NetBSD, you can skip the following section and go to *Editing the NetBSD disklabel*.

10. *Editing the Master Boot Record*

    You will be presented with the current values stored in the MBR, and will be given the opportunity to change, create or delete partitions. For each partition you can set the type, the start and the size. Setting the type to **unused** will delete a partition. You can also mark a partition as active, meaning that this is the one that the BIOS will start from at boot time.

    Be sure to mark the partition you want to boot from as active!

    After you are done editing the MBR, a sanity check will be done, checking for partitions that overlap. Depending on the BIOS capabilities of your machine and the parameters of the NetBSD partition you have specified, you may also be asked if you want to install newer bootcode in your MBR. If you have multiple operating systems on the disk that you are installing on, you will also be given the option to install a bootselector, which will allow you to pick the operating system to start up when your computer is (re-)started.

    If everything is OK, you can go on to the next step, editing the NetBSD disklabel.

11. *Editing the NetBSD disklabel*

    The partition table of the NetBSD part of a disk is called a *disklabel*. If your disk already has a disklabel written to it, you can choose **Use existing partition sizes**. Otherwise, select **Set sizes of NetBSD partitions**.

    After you have chosen your partitions and their sizes (or if you opted to use the existing partitions), you will be presented with the layout of the NetBSD disklabel and given one more chance to change it. For each partition, you can set the type, offset and size, block and fragment size, and the mount point. The type that NetBSD uses for normal file storage is called **4.2BSD**. A swap partition has a special type called **swap**. Some partitions in the disklabel have a fixed purpose.

    `a` Root partition (/)

    `b` Swap partition.

    `c` The NetBSD portion of the disk.

`d` The entire disk.

`e-p` Available for other use. Traditionally, `e` is the partition mounted on `/usr`, but this is historical practice and not a fixed value.

You will then be asked to name your disk's disklabel. The default response will be OK for most purposes. If you choose to name it something different, make sure the name is a single word and contains no special characters. You don't need to remember this name.

12. *Preparing your hard disk*

    You are now at the point of no return. Nothing has been written to your disk yet, but if you confirm that you want to install NetBSD, your hard drive will be modified. If you are sure you want to proceed, select **yes**.

    The install program will now label your disk and create the file systems you specified. The file systems will be initialized to contain NetBSD bootstrapping binaries and configuration files. You will see messages on your screen from the various NetBSD disk preparation tools that are running. There should be no errors in this section of the installation. If there are, restart from the beginning of the installation process. Otherwise, you can continue the installation program after pressing the return key.

13. *Getting the distribution sets*

    The NetBSD distribution consists of a number of *sets* that come in the form of gzipped tar files. At this point, you will be presented with a menu which enables you to choose from one of the following methods of installing the sets. Some of these methods will first transfer the sets to your hard disk, others will extract the sets directly.

    For all these methods, the first step is to make the sets available for extraction. The sets can be made available in a few different ways. The following sections describe each of the methods. After reading about the method you will be using, you can continue to the section labeled 'Extracting the distribution sets'.

14. *Installation from CD-ROM*

    When installing from a CD-ROM, you will be asked to specify the device name for your CD-ROM drive (usually `cd0`) and the directory name on the CD-ROM where the distribution files are.

    sysinst will then check that the files are actually present in the specified location and proceed to the extraction of the sets.

15. *Installation using FTP*

    To install using FTP, you first need to configure your network setup if you haven't already done so. **sysinst** will help you with this, asking if you want to use DHCP. If you do not use DHCP, you can enter network configuration details yourself. If you do not have DNS set up for the machine that you are installing on, you can just press RETURN in answer to this question, and DNS will not be used.

    You will also be asked to specify the host that you want to transfer the sets from, the directory on that host, the account name and password used to log into that host using FTP, and optionally a proxy server to use. If you did not set up DNS, you will need to specify an IP address instead of a hostname for the FTP server.

    sysinst will then transfer the set files from the remote site to your hard disk.

16. *Installation using NFS*

    To install using NFS, you first need to configure your network setup if you haven't already done so. **sysinst** will do this for you, asking you if you want to use DHCP. If you do not use DHCP, you can enter network configuration details yourself. If you do not have DNS set up for the machine that you are installing on, you can just press `RETURN` in answer to this question, and DNS will not be used.

You will also be asked to specify the host that you want to transfer the sets from and the directory on that host that the files are in. This directory should be mountable by the machine you are installing on, i.e., correctly exported to your machine.

If you did not set up DNS, you will need to specify an IP address instead of a hostname for the NFS server.

17. *Installation from a floppy set*

    Because the installation sets are too big to fit on one floppy, the floppies are expected to be filled with the split set files. The floppies are expected to be in MS-DOS format. You will be asked for a directory where the sets should be reassembled. Then you will be prompted to insert the floppies containing the split sets. This process will continue until all the sets have been loaded from floppy.

18. *Installation from an unmounted file system*

    In order to install from a local file system, you will need to specify the device that the file system resides on (for example `wd1e`), the type of the file system, and the directory on the specified file system where the sets are located. **sysinst** will then check if it can indeed access the sets at that location.

19. *Installation from a local directory*

    This option assumes that you have already done some preparation yourself. The sets should be located in a directory on a file system that is already accessible. **sysinst** will ask you for the name of this directory.

20. *Extracting the distribution sets*

    A progress bar will be displayed while the distribution sets are being extracted.

    After all the files have been extracted, the device node files will be created. If you have already configured networking, you will be asked if you want to use this configuration for normal operation. If so, these values will be installed in the network configuration files.

21. *Configure additional items*

    The next menu will allow you to select a number of additional items to configure, including the time zone that you're in, to make sure your clock has the right offset from UTC, the root user's shell, and the initial root password.

    You can also enable installation of binary packages, which installs the `pkgin`(1) tool for managing binary packages for third-party software. This will feel familiar to users of package tools such as **apt-get** or **yum**. If you prefer to install third-party software from source, you can install the `pkgsrc`(7) tree.

    Finally, you can enable some daemons such as `sshd`(8), `ntpd`(8), or `mdnsd`(8).

22. *Finalizing your installation*

    Congratulations, you have successfully installed NetBSD 11.1. You can now reboot the machine and boot NetBSD from hard disk.

Post installation steps

Once you've got the operating system running, there are a few things you need to do in order to bring the system into a properly configured state. The most important steps are described below.

1. Before all else, read `postinstall`(8).

2. Configuring /etc/rc.conf

   If you or the installation software haven't done any configuration of /etc/rc.conf (**sysinst** normally will), the system will drop you into single user mode on first reboot with the message

   ```
   /etc/rc.conf is not configured. Multiuser boot aborted.
   ```

   and with the root file system (/) mounted read-only. When the system asks you to choose a shell, simply press RETURN to get to a /bin/sh prompt. If you are asked for a terminal type, respond with **vt220** (or whatever is appropriate for your terminal type) and press RETURN. You may need to type one of the following commands to get your delete key to work properly, depending on your keyboard:

   ```
   # stty erase '^h'
   # stty erase '^?'
   ```

   At this point, you need to configure at least one file in the /etc directory. You will need to mount your root file system read/write with:

   ```
   # /sbin/mount -u -w /
   ```

   Change to the /etc directory and take a look at the /etc/rc.conf file. Modify it to your tastes, making sure that you set rc_configured=YES so that your changes will be enabled and a multi-user boot can proceed. Default values for the various programs can be found in /etc/defaults/rc.conf, where some in-line documentation may be found. More complete documentation can be found in rc.conf(5).

   When you have finished editing /etc/rc.conf, type **exit** at the prompt to leave the single-user shell and continue with the multi-user boot.

   Other values that may need to be set in /etc/rc.conf for a networked environment are *hostname* and possibly *defaultroute*. You may also need to add an *ifconfig_int* for your ⟨int⟩ network interface, along the lines of

   ```
   ifconfig_wm0="inet 192.0.2.123 netmask 255.255.255.0"
   ```

   or, if you have *myname.my.dom* in /etc/hosts:

   ```
   ifconfig_wm0="inet myname.my.dom netmask 255.255.255.0"
   ```

   To enable proper hostname resolution, you will also want to add an /etc/resolv.conf file or (if you are feeling a little more adventurous) run named(8). See resolv.conf(5) or named(8) for more information.

   Instead of manually configuring networking, DHCP can be used by setting dhcpcd=YES in /etc/rc.conf.

3. Logging in

   After reboot, you can log in as root at the login prompt. If you didn't set a password in **sysinst**, there is no initial password. You should create an account for yourself (see below) and protect it and the "root" account with good passwords. By default, root login from the network is disabled (even via ssh(1)). One way to become root over the network is to log in as a different user that belongs to group "wheel" (see group(5)) and use su(1) to become root.

4. Adding accounts

   Use the useradd(8) command to add accounts to your system. Do not edit /etc/passwd directly! See vipw(8) and pwd_mkdb(8) if you want to edit the password database.

5. The X Window System

   If you installed the X Window System, you may want to read the chapter about X in the *NetBSD Guide:*
   https://www.NetBSD.org/docs/guide/en/chap-x.html:

6. Installing third-party packages

   If you wish to install any of the software freely available for UNIX-like systems you are strongly advised to first check the NetBSD package system, pkgsrc. pkgsrc automatically handles any changes necessary to make the software run on NetBSD. This includes the retrieval and installation of any other packages the software may depend upon.

   - More information on the package system is available at
     https://www.NetBSD.org/docs/software/packages.html
   - A list of available packages suitable for browsing is at
     https://cdn.NetBSD.org/pub/pkgsrc/current/pkgsrc/README.html
   - Precompiled binaries can be found at
     https://cdn.NetBSD.org/pub/pkgsrc/packages/NetBSD/
     usually in the `i386/11.1/All` subdir. If you installed `pkgin`(1) in the **`sysinst`** post-installation configuration menu, you can use it to automatically install binary packages over the network. Assuming that `/usr/pkg/etc/pkgin/repositories.conf` is correctly configured, you can install them with the following commands:

     ```
     # pkgin install tcsh bash perl apache xfce4 firefox
     ...
     ```

     The above command will install the Tenex-csh and Bourne Again shells, the Perl programming language, Apache web server, Xfce desktop environment and the Firefox web browser as well as all the packages they depend on.

     If it was not automatically installed, `pkgin`(1) can be installed on a fresh NetBSD system with `pkg_add`(1):

     ```
     export PKG_PATH=https://cdn.netbsd.org/pub/pkgsrc/packages/NetBSD/$(uname -p)/$
     pkg_add pkgin
     ```
   - If you wish to use the `pkgsrc`(7) framework for compiling packages and did not install it from the `sysinst`(8) post-installation configuration menu, you can obtain it by retrieving the file
     https://cdn.NetBSD.org/pub/pkgsrc/stable/pkgsrc.tar.gz.
     It is typically extracted into `/usr/pkgsrc` (though other locations work fine) with the commands:

     ```
     # cd /usr
     # tar -zxpf pkgsrc.tar.gz
     ```

     After extracting, see the `doc/pkgsrc.txt` file in the extraction directory (e.g., `/usr/pkgsrc/doc/pkgsrc.txt`) for more information.

7. Misc

   - Edit `/etc/mail/aliases` to forward root mail to the right place. Don't forget to run `newaliases`(1) afterwards.
   - Edit `/etc/rc.local` to run any local daemons you use.
   - Many of the `/etc` files are documented in section 5 of the manual; so just invoking

     ```
     # man 5 filename
     ```

     is likely to give you more information on these files.

Upgrading a previously-installed NetBSD System

The easiest way to upgrade to NetBSD 11.1 is with binaries, and that is the method documented here.

To do the upgrade, you must have one form of boot media available. You must also have at least the **base** and **kern** binary distribution sets available. Finally, you must have sufficient disk space available to install the new binaries. Since files already installed on the system are overwritten in place, you only need additional free space for files which weren't previously installed or to account for growth of the sets between releases.

Since upgrading involves replacing the kernel, boot blocks, and most of the system binaries, it has the potential to cause data loss. You are strongly advised to *back up* any important data on the NetBSD partition or on another operating system's partition on your disk before beginning the upgrade process.

The upgrade procedure is similar to an installation, but without the hard disk partitioning.

Fetching the binary sets is done in the same manner as the installation procedure; refer to the installation part of the document for help. File systems are checked before unpacking the sets.

After a new kernel has been copied to your hard disk, your machine is a complete NetBSD 11.1 system. However, that doesn't mean that you're finished with the upgrade process. You will probably want to update the set of device nodes you have in `/dev`. If you've changed the contents of `/dev` by hand, you will need to be careful about this, but if not, you can just cd into `/dev`, and run the command:

```
# sh MAKEDEV all
```

`sysinst` will attempt to merge the settings stored in your `/etc` directory with the new version of NetBSD using the `postinstall`(8) utility. However, `postinstall`(8) is only able to deal with changes that are easily automated. It is recommended that you use the `etcupdate`(8) tool to merge any remaining configuration changes.

Compatibility Issues With Previous NetBSD Releases

Users upgrading from previous versions of NetBSD may wish to bear the following problems and compatibility issues in mind when upgrading to NetBSD 11.1.

Note that **`sysinst`** will automatically invoke

```
postinstall fix
```

and thus all issues that are fixed by **`postinstall`** by default will be handled.

In NetBSD 9 and earlier, filesystems listed in `/etc/fstab` would be mounted before non-legacy **`zfs`** filesystems. Starting from NetBSD 10 this order has been reversed.

If you have ever run a version of NetBSD-current between April 18, 2020 and September 23, 2022 (the version numbers used in the affected time range are between 9.99.56 and 9.99.106) your FFS file systems might have broken extended attributes stored.

You should follow this *guide:*

https://wiki.netbsd.org/features/UFS2ea/

before booting the updated system multi-user for the first time.

Note that you do not need to do anything special if you never did run any affected kernel, especially if you have never run NetBSD-current.

A number of things have been removed from the NetBSD 11.1 release. See the "Components removed from NetBSD" section near the beginning of this document for a list.

Using online NetBSD documentation

Documentation is available if you installed the manual distribution set. Traditionally, the "man pages" (documentation) are denoted by '`name(section)`'. Some examples of this are

- `intro`(1),
- `man`(1),
- `apropos`(1),
- `passwd`(1), and
- `passwd`(5).

The section numbers group the topics into several categories, but three are of primary interest: user commands are in section 1, file formats are in section 5, and administrative information is in section 8.

The *man* command is used to view the documentation on a topic, and is started by entering **man** [*section*] *topic*. The brackets [ ] around the section should not be entered, but rather indicate that the section is optional. If you don't ask for a particular section, the topic with the lowest numbered section name will be displayed. For instance, after logging in, enter

```
# man passwd
```

to read the documentation for `passwd`(1). To view the documentation for `passwd`(5), enter

```
# man 5 passwd
```

instead.

If you are unsure of what man page you are looking for, enter

```
# apropos subject-word
```

where *subject-word* is your topic of interest; a list of possibly related man pages will be displayed.

Administrivia

If you've got something to say, do so! We'd like your input. There are various mailing lists available via the mailing list server at `majordomo@NetBSD.org`. See **https://www.NetBSD.org/mailinglists/** for details.

There are various mailing lists set up to deal with comments and questions about this release. Please send comments to: `netbsd-comments@NetBSD.org`.

To report bugs, use the `send-pr`(1) command shipped with NetBSD, and fill in as much information about the problem as you can. Good bug reports include lots of details.

Bugs also can be submitted and queried with the web interface at
https://www.NetBSD.org/support/send-pr.html

There are also port-specific mailing lists, to discuss aspects of each port of NetBSD. Use majordomo to find their addresses, or visit **https://www.NetBSD.org/mailinglists/**

If you're interested in doing a serious amount of work on a specific port, you probably should contact the 'owner' of that port (listed below).

If you'd like to help with NetBSD, and have an idea as to how you could be useful, send us mail or subscribe to: `netbsd-users@NetBSD.org`.

As a favor, please avoid mailing huge documents or files to these mailing lists. Instead, put the material you would have sent up for FTP or WWW somewhere, then mail the appropriate list about it. If you'd rather not do that, mail the list saying you'll send the data to those who want it.

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- The Columbia University Computer Science Department for hosting the build cluster.
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- We list the individuals and organizations that have made donations or loans of hardware and/or money, to support NetBSD development, and deserve credit for it at **https://www.NetBSD.org/donations/** (If you're not on that list and should be, tell us! We probably were not able to get in touch with you, to verify that you wanted to be listed.)
- Finally, we thank all of the people who've put sweat and tears into developing NetBSD since its inception in January, 1993. (Obviously, there are a lot more people who deserve thanks here. If you're one of them, and would like to be mentioned, tell us!)

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