

Run a FreeBSD script at boot

This tutorial shows you howto run a FreeBSD script at boot.

The usual method is to place a script in `/usr/local/etc/rc.d`, but you must follow some rules (see FreeBSD handbook).

Still, there is a more simple way to run a script when FreeBSD boots.

Let's suppose you have root partition on a hard drive and you want to mount partitions from an external USB drive after you've booted. It is not possible to place your USB drive partitions in `/etc/fstab`, because USB drive is detected after the `fstab` is parsed and partitions are mounted (at boot time).

So in this case we will do the following:

Step 1. Add the script to `/etc/devd.conf`

Add the following lines to `/etc/devd.conf` :

```
attach 10 {
    match "device-name" "umass0";
    action "/etc/scripts/mount.sh";
};
```

Step 2. Create the script file that will mount your partitions

`mkdir /etc/scripts`
`touch /etc/scripts/mount.sh`
`chmod +x /etc/scripts/mount.sh`

`edit /etc/scripts/mount.sh`

And in `mount.sh` add the following lines:

```
#!/bin/sh
sleep 2
usr/bin/true > /dev/da0
/sbin/mount -t ufs /dev/da0s1d /tmp
/sbin/mount -t ufs /dev/da0s1e /var
/sbin/mount -t ufs /dev/da0s1f /usr
/sbin/swapon /dev/da0s1b
```

In this example the script will mount partitions `/tmp`, `/var` and `/usr` from USB hard drive and will also add the swap partition from USB drive to your system.

You can place in this script any commands you want to be run after FreeBSD boots.