

Fixing a Bad "Boot:" String

If, when you press **RETURN** at the "Boot:" prompt, you get something undesirable, such as

```
hd(40)unix rmn hd(40)unix ct=2 etc.
```

The default boot string has been corrupted. Here's how to fix it:

Note: If you wait too long to press **RETURN** (probably about a minute), the system will automatically boot. The boot string in this case will have "11 auto" appended to it, as in

```
hd(40)unix auto
```

This is not a problem, but a standard feature of Unix. Note that if "Boot:" times out, you will not have a chance to enter single-user mode, but instead you will be taken directly to multi-user mode.

First, boot the system by typing `hd(40)unix` at the "Boot:" prompt.

Note: If that didn't work, you may try these entries:

`unix`

`unix.old`

(any other kernel you might have saved)

If those don't work, you may have to boot using emergency boot and root floppies

Go into multi-user (or single-user) mode.

Edit the file `/etc/default/boot.11`:

```
Pvii users type # stty -tabs # vi /etc/default/boot RETURN)
```

- Go to the line containing `11DEFBOOTSTR=11`
(**1vii** users type `/DEFBOOTSTR= RETURN`)
- Remove anything spurious from this line. Unless a special configuration is needed, the line should be

```
DEFBOOTSTR=hd(40)unix
```

You will likely need to remove information from the end of the line that does not belong. Pvii users type

```
$
```

(Go to the end of the line)

```
x
```

(Delete the character under the cursor))

- Save the file Pvii users type `:x [enter]`

To test the new default boot string, reboot your system and press **RETURN** at the "Boot:" prompt.

[REDACTED]