

pfSense - Bug #4009

Selecting "Embedded" during install does not activate the serial console in a persistent way on amd64

11/14/2014 08:07 AM - Jim Pingle

Status:	Resolved	Start date:	11/14/2014
Priority:	High	Due date:	
Assignee:		% Done:	0%
Category:	Console Menu	Estimated time:	0.00 hour
Target version:	2.2	Affected Architecture:	amd64
Affected Version:	2.2		

Description

Selecting "Embedded" during install does not activate the serial console in a persistent way on amd64 now that there is no "embedded" kernel there.

If a config.xml is restored that does not include the tags to enable the serial port, the user is left with a broken console.

Easy to reproduce on APU:

- Install to mSATA in an APU, choose Embedded
- After install, once it boots, download a config backup
- Remove "<enableserial/>" from the config backup
- Restore the backup and wait for it to reboot
- The unit will boot, but the console never produces a menu at the end of the boot process
- "Bootup complete" is displayed but no menu

There is some code to force the serial console on (enableserial_force) but it may need some adjustment to work in this scenario.

Associated revisions

Revision 719db60e - 11/28/2014 04:26 PM - Ermal Luçi

Ticket #4009 Force serial console whenever the installer told us so.

History

#1 - 11/14/2014 09:53 AM - Ermal Luçi

Why is this the fault of pfSense?

#2 - 11/14/2014 10:06 AM - Jim Pingle

It's a regression. In previous versions with the embedded kernel you could not stop the serial console from working since the kernel was built that way.

Now it's possible to completely break the console very easily. We should not allow the user to brick their device if we can help it.

#3 - 11/27/2014 03:40 AM - Chris Buechler

- Priority changed from Normal to High

- Affected Documentation 1 added

- Affected Documentation deleted (0)

This is important in that it'll be a support nightmare to put out a release that makes it this easy to break the console.

#4 - 11/27/2014 09:21 AM - Ermal Luçi

Do you agree with this diff?

#9 - 11/28/2014 04:21 PM - Ermal Luçi

- *Status changed from Confirmed to Feedback*

Hopefully the latest commits with a file makes this final solution.

#10 - 12/03/2014 04:13 PM - Renato Botelho

Worked fine on my tests, will leave it open to hear a 2nd opinion

#11 - 12/04/2014 09:42 AM - Jim Pingle

- *Status changed from Feedback to Resolved*

Works for me, too. I restored a problem config and it still has a console when it boots back up. Marking this as resolved.

#12 - 12/04/2014 12:41 PM - Chris Buechler

yeah looks good