

PXE native boot menu

From Syslinux Wiki

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What is PXE native boot menu

The PXE specification [1] (<http://download.intel.com/design/archives/wfm/downloads/pxespec.pdf>) requires that compliant agent (i.e network card) support a simple menu system to select the image to download and execute.

The menu entries are provided through DHCP protocol (by the DHCP server or a PXE boot server).

```
Managed PC Boot Agent (MBA) v4.12
(C) Copyright 2000 Lanworks Technologies Co. a subsidiary of 3Com Corporation
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Pre-boot eXecution Environment (PXE) v2.20
(C) Copyright 1999 Intel Corporation.
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CLIENT MAC ADDR: 00 00 86 49 39 46  GUID: 1F061A81-442A-11CB-985E-DDEBA63AB89F
CLIENT IP: 192.168.0.130  MASK: 255.255.255.0  DHCP IP: 192.168.0.20
GATEWAY IP: 192.168.0.1

Choose:
--> Boot from local disk
    PXE-Linux
    PXE-Linux on 192.168.0.100
    ACME Deployment server
```

Requirements

- Two or more OS deployment servers, like ISC's dhcp + HPA's tftpd, dnsmasq, Microsoft RIS / WDS, IBM Tivoli provisioning manager (TPM), Symantec/Altiris Deployment Service (DS)...
- Don't want to mess-up integrating one boot menu in the other.
- No old PXE newtork card.

Using dnsmasq to provide a PXE menu

Let's configure dnsmasq as DHCP server, and provide some entries:

A simple /etc/dnsmasq.conf:

```
### Usual DHCP stuffs ###
dhcp-range=192.168.0.110,192.168.0.120,255.255.255.0
dhcp-option=option:router,192.168.0.1
### PXE's native menu ###
```

```
pxe-prompt="Choose:"
pxe-service=x86PC, "Boot from local disk", 64
pxe-service=x86PC, "PXE-Linux", "pxelinux"
pxe-service=x86PC, "PXE-Linux on 192.168.0.100", "pxelinux", 192.168.0.100
pxe-service=x86PC, "ACME Deployment server", "acme", 192.168.0.101
# See dnsmasq(8) for explanation of pxe-service syntax.
```

See:

- [dnsmasq Homepage \(http://www.thekelleys.org.uk/dnsmasq/doc.html\)](http://www.thekelleys.org.uk/dnsmasq/doc.html)
- [dnsmasq\(8\) \(http://www.thekelleys.org.uk/dnsmasq/docs/dnsmasq-man.html\)](http://www.thekelleys.org.uk/dnsmasq/docs/dnsmasq-man.html) manpage.

Using other tools to provide a PXE menu

It should be possible to use other DHCP servers and PXE boot server to provide the PXE native menu. Your contribution is welcome

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- This page was last modified on 20 December 2009, at 12:46.