



## Linux Howtos

### Network Installation using PXE (201)

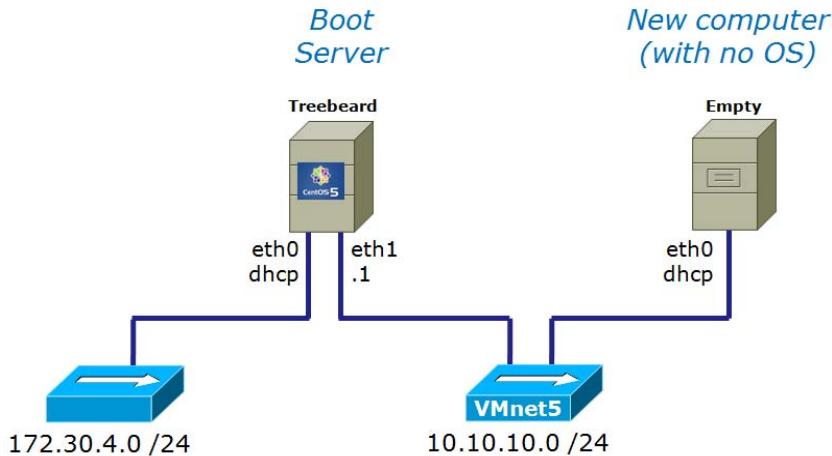
#### CIS 192 – Spring 2010

### Network Installation using PXE (201)

This Howto documents the configuration of a PXE based boot server for doing Linux installations. PXE (Preboot Execution Environment) allows a new “empty” computer to use the network to boot up and install an operating system.

The PXE-based boot server (Treebeard) will have DHCP, TFTP and a web server configured and running. The “empty” computer will do a PXE boot, get an IP address using DHCP, then get the Linux kernel and initial RAM disk files using tftp. Next, HTTP is used to get installation files via the web server to do the install.

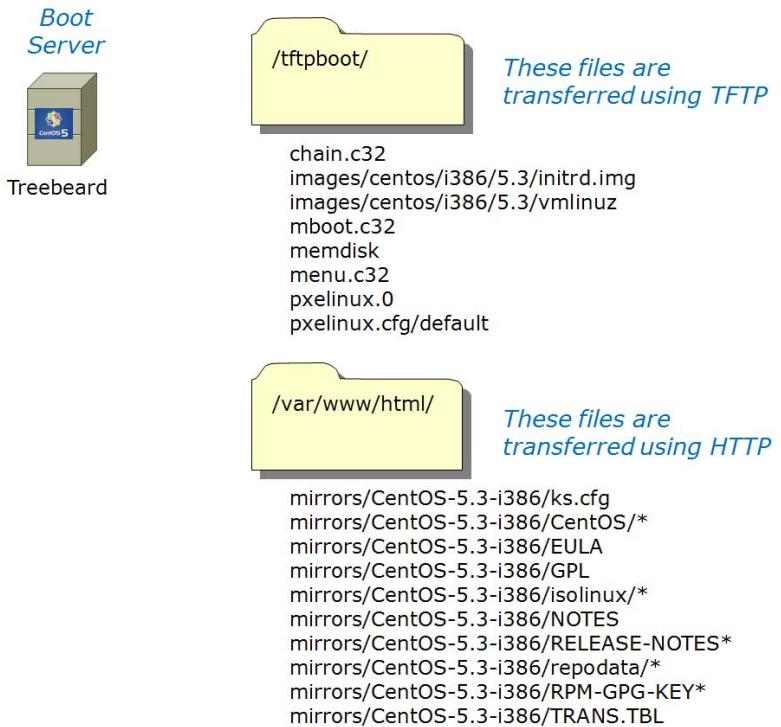
PXELINUX (a derivative of SYSLINUX) will be used to orchestrate the initial boot. The Anaconda installer using a kickstart file will automate the Linux installation.



The boot server, named Treebeard, will have repositories for the PXELINUX boot files, a kickstart file and all the files normally found on a Linux Distribution installation CD/DVD.

The Linux kernel (**vmlinuz**), initial RAM disk (**initrd.img**) and PXELINUX boot files are placed in the **/tftpboot** directory. These files will be transferred using TFTP to the new empty client when it first boots.

The kickstart file (**ks.cfg**) and all the files found on a Linux distribution installation CD/DVD are placed in the **/var/www/html** directory. These files will be transferred using HTTP via the Apache web server to the new empty client.



## Supplies

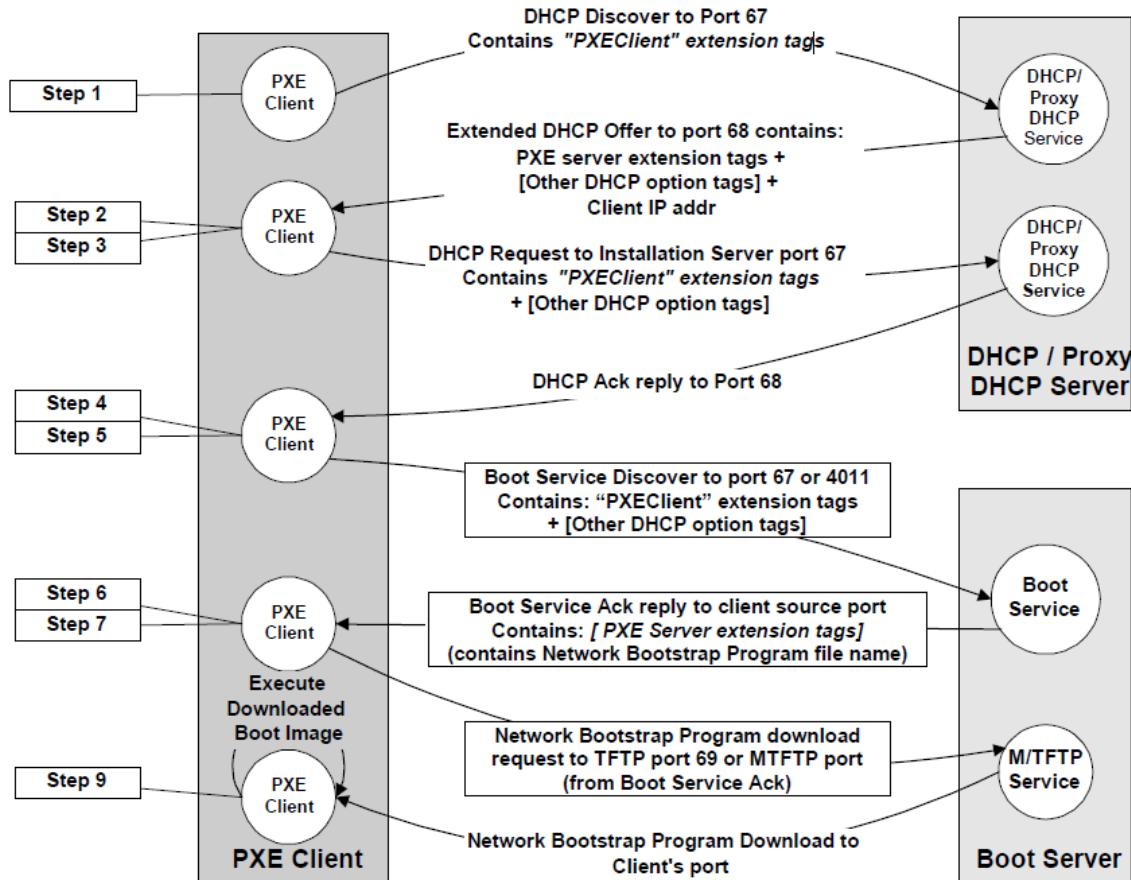
VMs:

- Treebeard (CentOS 5.3 installed)
  - Choose Custom mode when creating
  - Select Red Hat Enterprise Linux 4 or 5 (32 bit)
  - Not private
  - Run as user who powers on the VM
  - One processor
  - 512 MB RAM
  - SCSI Adapter: LSI Logic
  - 10 GB SCSI HD
    - Don't allocate space now
    - Split disk into 2 GB files (for USB flash drive transport)
  - 2 NICs (add 2<sup>nd</sup> NIC and configure after creating VM)
    - Ethernet – bridged (shares host's NIC)
    - Ethernet 2 – connects to VMnet5 (a virtual network)
- Empty (no OS installed)
  - Choose Custom mode when creating
  - Select Red Hat Enterprise Linux 4 or 5 (32 bit)
  - Not private
  - Run as user who powers on the VM
  - One processor
  - 512 MB RAM
  - SCSI Adapter: LSI Logic
  - 5 GB SCSI HD
    - Don't allocate space now
    - Split disk into 2 GB files (for USB flash drive transport)

- o 1 NIC
  - Ethernet - connects to VMnet5 (a virtual network)

Virtualization: VMWare Server 1.0X or 2.X

### PXE Boot Sequence



**Figure 2-1 PXE Boot**

Source: <http://download.intel.com/design/archives/wfm/downloads/pxespec.pdf>

### Configure Treebeard to be a PXE boot server

- 1) Configure the network interfaces:
  - o eth0 is dhcp
  - o eth1 is static 10.10.10.1/24
  - o enable IP forwarding (`echo 1 > /proc/sys/net/ipv4/ip_forward`)

Note: eth0 will connect to your physical network. eth1 will connect to the virtual VMnet5 network. The Empty VM will also be connected to the VMnet5 virtual network.

Forwarding is enabled so the Empty VM will be able to get to the Internet via Treebeard.

See Treebeard Network Interface Configuration below for more information.

## 2) Install (if necessary) and configure the DHCP service.

```
[root@treebeard ~]# yum install dhcp
```

You will need to create a **/etc/dhcpd.conf** file on your DHCP server. See the Treebeard DHCP Service Configuration section below for the complete configuration file used in this example. If you already have a **/etc/dhcpd.conf** file add the following lines to it in the global section. Make sure the next-server entry has the IP address of the boot (tftp) server. In this example we are using Treebeard at 10.10.10.1:

```
# Added for PXE boot support
allow booting;
allow bootp;
option option-128 code 128 = string;
option option-129 code 129 = text;
next-server 10.10.10.1;
filename "pxelinux.0";
```

Use **service dhcpcd restart** after making the changes.

Use **chkconfig dhcpcd on** so the service starts automatically during system boot.

## 3) Install and configure the tftp-server package. After a client gets an IP address using dhcp then tftp is used to pull down the linux kernel and initial RAM disk files.

```
[root@treebeard ~]# yum install tftp-server
```

tftp runs under the xinetd super-daemon umbrella. By default it is disabled. Edit the **/etc/xinetd.d/tftp** file and set “**disable**” to “**no**”. In addition, add the **-vvv** option to increase what gets logged.

```
[root@treebeard ~]# cat /etc/xinetd.d/tftp
# default: off
# description: The tftp server serves files using the trivial file transfer \
#               protocol. The tftp protocol is often used to boot diskless \
#               workstations, download configuration files to network-aware printers, \
#               and to start the installation process for some operating systems.
service tftp
{
    socket_type      = dgram
    protocol         = udp
    wait             = yes
    user             = root
    server           = /usr/sbin/in.tftpd
    server_args      = -vvv -s /tftpboot
    disable          = no
    per_source       = 11
    cps              = 100 2
    flags            = IPv4
}
[root@treebeard ~]#
```

Note: the **-s** is the *secure* option so tftp runs under chroot. **-vvv** is *very very verbose* so all transferred files get logged in **/var/log/messages**.

Restart the xinetd service so the tftp configuration change takes effect:

```
[root@treebeard ~]# service xinetd restart
Stopping xinetd:                                     [  OK  ]
Starting xinetd:                                     [  OK  ]
[root@treebeard ~]#
```

4) Install (if necessary) the http service (Apache web server) and configure it.

If you need to install the Apache web server:

- [root@treebeard ~]# **yum install httpd**
- Set the **ServerName** directive in **/etc/httpd/conf/httpd.conf** to your server's IP address and port 80 (e.g. **ServerName 10.10.10.1:80**)
- Start Apache with: **service httpd start**

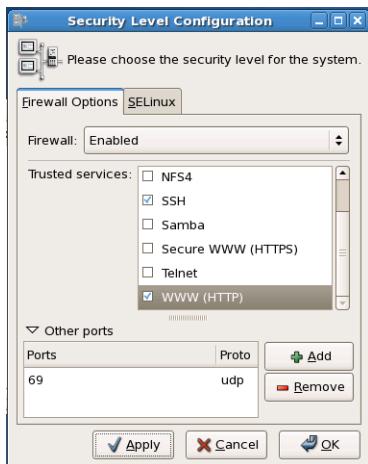
To check status:

```
[root@treebeard ~]# service httpd status
httpd (pid 4092 4091 4090 4089 4088 4087 4086 4085 4083) is running...
[root@treebeard ~]#
```

To start Apache web server:

```
[root@treebeard ~]# service httpd start
Starting httpd:                                     [  OK  ]
[root@treebeard ~]#
```

5) The firewall needs to be adjusted to allow incoming http and tftp requests. Open TCP port 80 and UDP port 69 in the firewall. These changes can be made with the Security Level Configuration tool (System > Administration) or the command line.



Using the command line is preferable. In addition to opening the ports 69 and 80 you can set up a NAT service for the 10.10.10.0/24 network and allow packets to be forwarded. See the Treebeard Firewall Configuration section below for how to do this.

- 6) Set SELinux to Disabled. One way to do this is to run **lokkit** and make the change if necessary:



- 7) Install the syslinux package. The Syslinux project produces lightweight bootloaders that can be used to boot OS's from hard drives, CDs (ISOLINUX) and over the network (PXELINUX).

```
[root@treebeard ~]# yum install syslinux
```

- 8) Copy Syslinux files to the /tftpboot directory

```
[root@treebeard ~]# cp /usr/lib/syslinux/pxelinux.0 /tftpboot
[root@treebeard ~]# cp /usr/lib/syslinux/menu.c32 /tftpboot
[root@treebeard ~]# cp /usr/lib/syslinux/memdisk /tftpboot
[root@treebeard ~]# cp /usr/lib/syslinux/mboot.c32 /tftpboot
[root@treebeard ~]# cp /usr/lib/syslinux/chain.c32 /tftpboot
[root@treebeard ~]#
```

- 9) Make a new directory for the PXE boot menus

```
[root@treebeard ~]# mkdir /tftpboot/pxelinux.cfg
[root@treebeard ~]#
```

- 10) Create a file named **default** in that directory. Note the kernel and append commands must be on one line (even though they may be shown as wrapped in the examples below):

```
[root@treebeard CentOS-5.3-i386]# cat /tftpboot/pxelinux.cfg/default
default menu.c32
prompt 0

# Bug in menu.c32 breaks timeout
# http://syslinux.zytor.com/archives/2005-September/005812.html
#timeout 300
#ONTIMEOUT minimal
```

```

MENU TITLE PXE Menu

LABEL minimal
    MENU LABEL CentOS 5.3 x86 (gets kickstart file using HTTP)
    MENU DEFAULT
    kernel images/centos/i386/5.3/vmlinuz
    append initrd=images/centos/i386/5.3/initrd.img
ks=http://10.10.10.1/mirrors/CentOS-5.3-i386/ks.cfg

LABEL interactive
    MENU LABEL CentOS 5.3 x86 (interactive install, no kickstart file)
    kernel images/centos/i386/5.3/vmlinuz
    append initrd=images/centos/i386/5.3/initrd.img ks ip=dhcp
[root@treebeard CentOS-5.3-i386]#

```

For details on above see: <http://syslinux.zytor.com/wiki/index.php/SYSLINUX>

11) Place Linux kernel(s) and initial RAM disk image(s) into **/tftpboot** directory for tftp transfers. For each Linux distribution to install make a directory for the kernel and initial ram disk images:

```
[root@treebeard ~]# mkdir -p /tftpboot/images/centos/i386/5.3
```

12) For each Linux distribution to install, copy the **vmlinuz** (kernel) and **initrd.img** (initial RAM disk) image files from disc 1 of the distribution CD. In the example below the CentOS 5.3 DVD has been mounted and the mount command shows the actual mount point. Use this mount information to copy the **vmlinuz** and **initrd.img** files.

```

[root@treebeard ~]# mount
/dev/mapper/VolGroup00-LogVol00 on / type ext3 (rw)
proc on /proc type proc (rw)
sysfs on /sys type sysfs (rw)
devpts on /dev/pts type devpts (rw,gid=5,mode=620)
/dev/sda1 on /boot type ext3 (rw)
tmpfs on /dev/shm type tmpfs (rw)
none on /proc/sys/fs/binfmt_misc type binfmt_misc (rw)
sunrpc on /var/lib/nfs/rpc_pipefs type rpc_pipefs (rw)
/dev/hdc on /media/CentOS_5.3_Final type iso9660 (ro,noexec,nosuid,nodev,uid=0)

[root@treebeard ~]# cd /tftpboot/images/centos/i386/5.3/
[root@treebeard 5.3]# cp /media/CentOS_5.3_Final/images/pxeboot/vmlinuz .
[root@treebeard 5.3]# cp /media/CentOS_5.3_Final/images/pxeboot/initrd.img .
[root@treebeard 5.3]#

```

13) Copy all the files on the Linux distribution DVD/CDs to your web document root location. These files will now be available using the http protocol to new clients.

```

[root@treebeard ~]# mkdir -p /var/www/html/mirrors/CentOS-5.3-i386/
[root@treebeard ~]# cd /var/www/html/mirrors/CentOS-5.3-i386/
[root@treebeard CentOS-5.3-i386]# cp -r /media/CentOS_5.3_Final/* .

```

You can name these directories as you wish but they need to be configured in your PXELINUX **default** file and Linux kickstart file (**ks.cfg**)

14) Place your kickstart file where it can be retrieved using your web server. A kickstart file contains the answers to questions you normally answer during an interactive install. This

allows the entire installation to be automated. In this example, the kickstart file is placed in the same location as the distribution files.

```
[root@treebeard CentOS-5.3-i386]# cat ks.cfg
#platform=x86, AMD64, or Intel EM64T
# System authorization information
auth --useshadow --enablemd5
# System bootloader configuration
bootloader --location=mbr --driveorder=sda
# Clear the Master Boot Record
zerombr
# Partition clearing information
clearpart --all --initlabel --drives=sda
# Use text mode install
text
# Firewall configuration
firewall --enabled --ssh
# Run the Setup Agent on first boot
firstboot --disable
# System keyboard
keyboard us
# System language
lang en_US
# Installation logging level
logging --level=info
# Use network installation
url --url=http://10.10.10.1/mirrors/CentOS-5.3-i386
# Network information
network --bootproto=dhcp --device=eth0 --onboot=on --hostname empty.localdomain
# Reboot after installation
reboot
#Root password
rootpw --iscrypted $1$oePUsywv$AqPrr7o4nHsq.eCY4TJsj1

# SELinux configuration
selinux --enforcing
# System timezone
timezone --isUtc America/Los_Angeles
# Install OS instead of upgrade
install
# Disk partitioning information
autopart

%packages
@core
%post
Add initial user
useradd -p '$1$ea6cJkZL$7Q8E8Di4CSKJ3fsCiFVQR1' cis192
#
# Make unique hostname
#
# Treebeard has a web page with a hit counter. The count is incremented
# each time the page is served. wget is used by then new system to request this
# web page via HTTP.
#
# The sed command extracts the count from the downloaded html page which
# is surrounded by span tags <span> and </span>. The count is then used to
# make a unique hostname.cp
#
file="10.10.10.1/counter/pxe-boot-counter.shtml"
num=$(wget -O - $file | sed -n 's/.*<span>\(.*\)</span>.*/\1/ip;T;q')
hostname="seedling$num"
```

```

# Backup original network file
cp /etc/sysconfig/network /etc/sysconfig/network.bak

# Modify the hostname in the network file
sed "s/empty/$hostname/g" < /etc/sysconfig/network.bak > /etc/sysconfig/network

echo "New hostname is $hostname"

[root@treebeard CentOS-5.3-i386]#

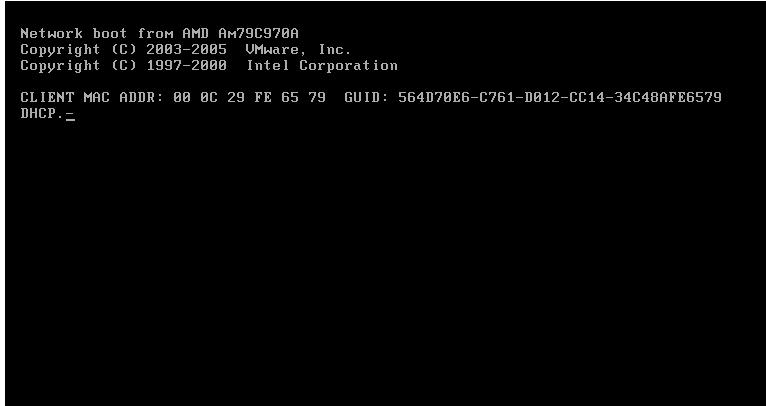
```

Note: this kickstart file, ks.cfg, does a text based installation of just the minimal core packages. Note it handles the disk partitioning and the reboot at the end automatically.

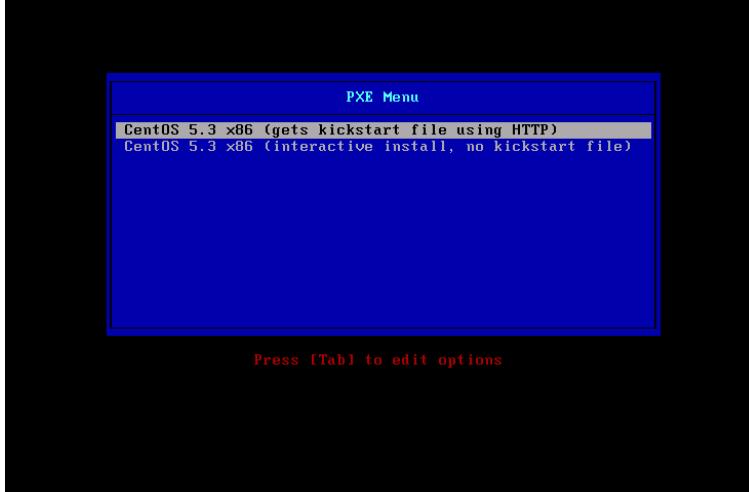
### Installing Linux into new VMs

Now that you have the PXE boot server configure it is time to try it out.

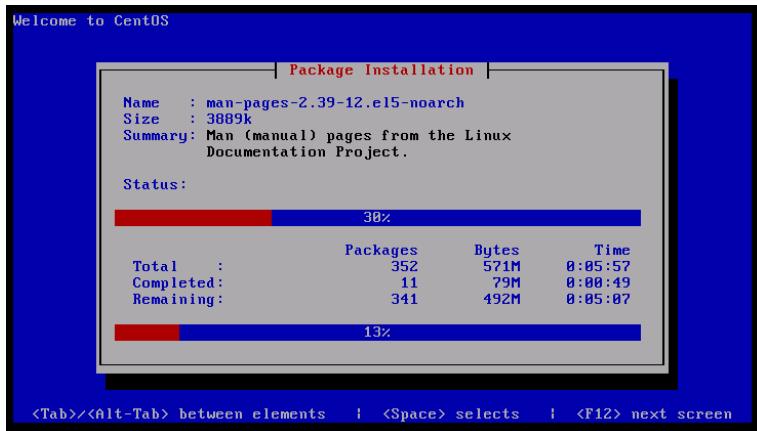
- 1) Create a new VM named empty with at least 384 MB of RAM and 5 GB for the hard drive.
- 2) Edit the VM settings and configure the Ethernet device to connect to VMnet5.
- 3) Start the VM



- 3) Select the first install option



- 4) Sit back and enjoy the install. The hard drive is partitioned, the OS packages are copied.



5) At the end, the new system reboots and is ready to go!

## Treebeard Network Interface Configuration

The two NICs are permanently configured for dhcp and static addresses. Note your MAC addresses will differ as they are randomly generated by VMware for each VM:

```
[root@treebeard ~]# cat /etc/sysconfig/network-scripts/ifcfg-eth0
# Advanced Micro Devices [AMD] 79c970 [PCnet32 LANCE]
DEVICE=eth0
BOOTPROTO=dhcp
HWADDR=00:0C:29:A7:73:E7
ONBOOT=yes

[root@treebeard ~]# cat /etc/sysconfig/network-scripts/ifcfg-eth1
# Advanced Micro Devices [AMD] 79c970 [PCnet32 LANCE]
DEVICE=eth1
BOOTPROTO=static
BROADCAST=10.10.10.255
IPADDR=10.10.10.1
NETMASK=255.255.255.0
ONBOOT=yes
HWADDR=00:0c:29:a7:73:f1
```

Remember to use the following command to have the NIC configuration files take effect:

```
[root@treebeard ~]# service network restart
Shutting down interface eth0:                                [  OK  ]
Shutting down interface eth1:                                [  OK  ]
Shutting down loopback interface:                            [  OK  ]
Disabling IPv4 packet forwarding: net.ipv4.ip_forward = 0      [  OK  ]
Bringing up loopback interface:                             [  OK  ]
Bringing up interface eth0:                                 [  OK  ]
Determining IP information for eth0... done.                  [  OK  ]
Bringing up interface eth1:
```

IP forwarding is enabled permanently by editing the `/etc/sysctl.conf` file:

```
[root@treebeard ~]# cat /etc/sysctl.conf
# Kernel sysctl configuration file for Red Hat Linux
#
# For binary values, 0 is disabled, 1 is enabled. See sysctl(8) and
# sysctl.conf(5) for more details.

# Controls IP packet forwarding
net.ipv4.ip_forward = 1

# Controls source route verification
net.ipv4.conf.default.rp_filter = 1

# Do not accept source routing
net.ipv4.conf.default.accept_source_route = 0

# Controls the System Request debugging functionality of the kernel
kernel.sysrq = 0

# Controls whether core dumps will append the PID to the core filename
# Useful for debugging multi-threaded applications
kernel.core_uses_pid = 1

# Controls the use of TCP synccookies
```

```

net.ipv4.tcp_syncookies = 1

# Controls the maximum size of a message, in bytes
kernel.msgmnb = 65536

# Controls the default maximum size of a message queue
kernel.msgmax = 65536

# Controls the maximum shared segment size, in bytes
kernel.shmmmax = 4294967295

# Controls the maximum number of shared memory segments, in pages
kernel.shmall = 268435456
[root@treebeard ~]#

```

Remember to use the following command to have the **/etc/sysctl.conf** configuration changes take effect:

```

[root@treebeard ~]# sysctl -p
net.ipv4.ip_forward = 1
net.ipv4.conf.default.rp_filter = 1
net.ipv4.conf.default.accept_source_route = 0
kernel.sysrq = 0
kernel.core_uses_pid = 1
net.ipv4.tcp_syncookies = 1
kernel.msgmnb = 65536
kernel.msgmax = 65536
kernel.shmmmax = 4294967295
kernel.shmall = 268435456
[root@treebeard ~]#

```

Use ifconfig to make sure your network settings are active:

```

[root@treebeard ~]# ifconfig
eth0      Link encap:Ethernet HWaddr 00:0C:29:A7:73:E7
          inet addr:172.30.4.194 Bcast:172.30.4.255 Mask:255.255.255.0
          inet6 addr: fe80::20c:29ff:fea7:73e7/64 Scope:Link
          UP BROADCAST RUNNING MULTICAST MTU:1500 Metric:1
          RX packets:1273 errors:0 dropped:0 overruns:0 frame:0
          TX packets:1383 errors:0 dropped:0 overruns:0 carrier:0
          collisions:0 txqueuelen:1000
          RX bytes:546158 (533.3 KiB) TX bytes:195164 (190.5 KiB)
          Interrupt:177 Base address:0x1400

eth1      Link encap:Ethernet HWaddr 00:0C:29:A7:73:F1
          inet addr:10.10.10.1 Bcast:10.10.10.255 Mask:255.255.255.0
          inet6 addr: fe80::20c:29ff:fea7:73f1/64 Scope:Link
          UP BROADCAST RUNNING MULTICAST MTU:1500 Metric:1
          RX packets:0 errors:0 dropped:0 overruns:0 frame:0
          TX packets:88 errors:0 dropped:0 overruns:0 carrier:0
          collisions:0 txqueuelen:1000
          RX bytes:0 (0.0 b) TX bytes:16846 (16.4 KiB)
          Interrupt:185 Base address:0x1480

lo       Link encap:Local Loopback
          inet addr:127.0.0.1 Mask:255.0.0.0
          inet6 addr: ::1/128 Scope:Host
          UP LOOPBACK RUNNING MTU:16436 Metric:1
          RX packets:2226 errors:0 dropped:0 overruns:0 frame:0
          TX packets:2226 errors:0 dropped:0 overruns:0 carrier:0
          collisions:0 txqueuelen:0
          RX bytes:5103450 (4.8 MiB) TX bytes:5103450 (4.8 MiB)

```

```
[root@treebeard ~]#
```

## Treebeard DHCP Service Configuration

The DHCP service is configured using the `/etc/dhcpd.conf` file.

In the global section at the top add lines to enable booting, specify the IP address of the boot server and provide the name of the boot program file to download and run.

Setup the 10.10.10.0/24 subnet by specifying the default gateway, network mask, domain name, DNS servers and a range of IP address to assign. The DNS servers in the example below allow Treebeard to operate at Cabrillo College or on my home network.

### DHCP information

```
[root@treebeard ~]# cat /etc/dhcpd.conf
ddns-update-style interim;

# Added for PXE boot support
allow booting;
allow bootp;
option option-128 code 128 = string;
option option-129 code 129 = text;
next-server 10.10.10.1;
filename "pxelinux.0";

ignore client-updates;
option time-offset          -25200; #PDT

subnet 10.10.10.0 netmask 255.255.255.0 {
    option routers            10.10.10.1;
    option subnet-mask         255.255.255.0;
    option domain-name         "tarchari";
    option domain-name-servers 207.62.187.53, 207.62.187.54, 192.168.0.1;

    range dynamic-bootp       10.10.10.150 10.10.10.199;
    default-lease-time        21600;
    max-lease-time             43200;
}

[root@treebeard ~]#
```

Restart the DHCP server so the changes made in `/etc/dhcpd.conf` take effect:

```
[root@nosmo root]# service dhcpcd restart
Shutting down dhcpcd:                                [  OK  ]
Starting dhcpcd:                                     [  OK  ]
You have new mail in /var/spool/mail/root
[root@nosmo root]#
```

## Treebeard Firewall Configuration

The default CentOS 5.3 firewall needs to be modified to:

- o Allow new incoming tftp requests (UDP port 69)
- o Allow new incoming http requests (TCP port 80)
- o Provide NAT service for the 10.10.10.0/24 network (using MASQUERADE)

- Allow forwarding of packets (delete rule that send forwarded packets through the RH-Firewall-1-INPUT filter)

First backup iptables configuration:

```
iptables-save > /etc/sysconfig/iptables.bak
```

Make the four changes mentioned above:

```
iptables -I RH-Firewall-1-INPUT 9 -m state --state NEW -m udp -p udp --dport 69 -j ACCEPT
iptables -I RH-Firewall-1-INPUT 9 -m state --state NEW -m tcp -p tcp --dport 80 -j ACCEPT
iptables -t nat -A POSTROUTING -o eth0 -j MASQUERADE
iptables -D FORWARD 1
```

Save the new configuration:

```
iptables-save > /etc/sysconfig/iptables
```

Reload the firewall from the configuration file:

```
service iptables restart
```

Display the revised firewall rules:

```
cat /etc/sysconfig/iptables
iptables -L
iptables -t nat -L
```

```
[root@treebeard sysconfig]# iptables-save > /etc/sysconfig/iptables.bak
[root@treebeard sysconfig]# iptables -I RH-Firewall-1-INPUT 9 -m state --state
NEW -m udp -p udp --dport 69 -j ACCEPT
[root@treebeard sysconfig]# iptables -I RH-Firewall-1-INPUT 9 -m state --state
NEW -m tcp -p tcp --dport 80 -j ACCEPT
[root@treebeard sysconfig]# iptables -t nat -A POSTROUTING -o eth0 -j MASQUERADE
[root@treebeard sysconfig]# iptables -D FORWARD 1
```

```
[root@treebeard sysconfig]# iptables-save > /etc/sysconfig/iptables
```

```
[root@treebeard sysconfig]# service iptables restart
Flushing firewall rules: [ OK ]
Setting chains to policy ACCEPT: nat filter [ OK ]
Unloading iptables modules: [ OK ]
Applying iptables firewall rules: [ OK ]
Loading additional iptables modules: ip_conntrack_netbios_n[ OK ]
```

```
[root@treebeard sysconfig]# cat /etc/sysconfig/iptables
# Generated by iptables-save v1.3.5 on Tue Nov  3 09:53:04 2009
*nat
:PREROUTING ACCEPT [0:0]
:POSTROUTING ACCEPT [0:0]
:OUTPUT ACCEPT [1:70]
-A POSTROUTING -o eth0 -j MASQUERADE
COMMIT
# Completed on Tue Nov  3 09:53:04 2009
# Generated by iptables-save v1.3.5 on Tue Nov  3 09:53:04 2009
*filter
:INPUT ACCEPT [0:0]
:FORWARD ACCEPT [0:0]
:OUTPUT ACCEPT [664:72586]
:RH-Firewall-1-INPUT - [0:0]
-A INPUT -j RH-Firewall-1-INPUT
-A RH-Firewall-1-INPUT -i lo -j ACCEPT
-A RH-Firewall-1-INPUT -p icmp -m icmp --icmp-type any -j ACCEPT
-A RH-Firewall-1-INPUT -p esp -j ACCEPT
```

```

-A RH-Firewall-1-INPUT -p ah -j ACCEPT
-A RH-Firewall-1-INPUT -d 224.0.0.251 -p udp -m udp --dport 5353 -j ACCEPT
-A RH-Firewall-1-INPUT -p udp -m udp --dport 631 -j ACCEPT
-A RH-Firewall-1-INPUT -p tcp -m tcp --dport 631 -j ACCEPT
-A RH-Firewall-1-INPUT -m state --state RELATED,ESTABLISHED -j ACCEPT
-A RH-Firewall-1-INPUT -p tcp -m state --state NEW -m tcp --dport 80 -j ACCEPT
-A RH-Firewall-1-INPUT -p udp -m state --state NEW -m udp --dport 69 -j ACCEPT
-A RH-Firewall-1-INPUT -p tcp -m state --state NEW -m tcp --dport 22 -j ACCEPT
-A RH-Firewall-1-INPUT -j REJECT --reject-with icmp-host-prohibited
COMMIT
# Completed on Tue Nov  3 09:53:04 2009
[root@treebeard sysconfig]#

[root@treebeard sysconfig]# iptables -L
Chain INPUT (policy ACCEPT)
target     prot opt source          destination
RH-Firewall-1-INPUT  all  --  anywhere       anywhere

Chain FORWARD (policy ACCEPT)
target     prot opt source          destination

Chain OUTPUT (policy ACCEPT)
target     prot opt source          destination

Chain RH-Firewall-1-INPUT (1 references)
target     prot opt source          destination
ACCEPT    all  --  anywhere        anywhere
ACCEPT    icmp --  anywhere       anywhere          icmp any
ACCEPT    esp  --  anywhere        anywhere
ACCEPT    ah   --  anywhere        anywhere
ACCEPT    udp  --  anywhere        224.0.0.251      udp dpt:mdns
ACCEPT    udp  --  anywhere        anywhere          udp dpt:ipp
ACCEPT    tcp  --  anywhere        anywhere          tcp dpt:ipp
ACCEPT    all  --  anywhere        anywhere          state RELATED,ESTABLISHED
ACCEPT    tcp  --  anywhere        anywhere          state NEW tcp dpt:http
ACCEPT    udp  --  anywhere        anywhere          state NEW udp dpt:tftp
ACCEPT    tcp  --  anywhere        anywhere          state NEW tcp dpt:ssh
REJECT    all  --  anywhere        anywhere          reject-with icmp-host-
prohibited

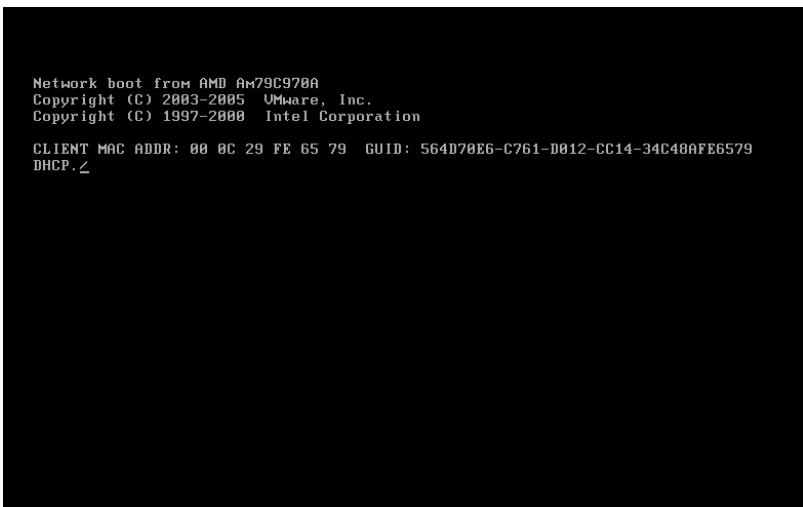
[root@treebeard sysconfig]# iptables -t nat -L
Chain PREROUTING (policy ACCEPT)
target     prot opt source          destination

Chain POSTROUTING (policy ACCEPT)
target     prot opt source          destination
MASQUERADE  all  --  anywhere       anywhere

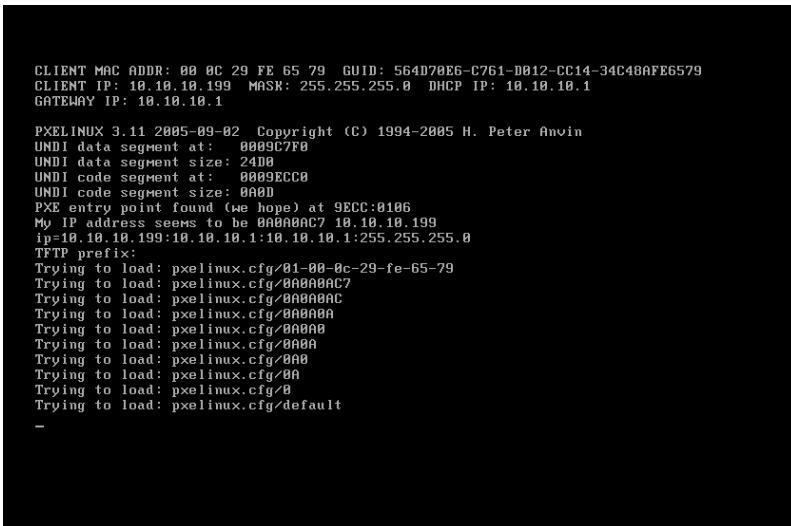
Chain OUTPUT (policy ACCEPT)
target     prot opt source          destination

```

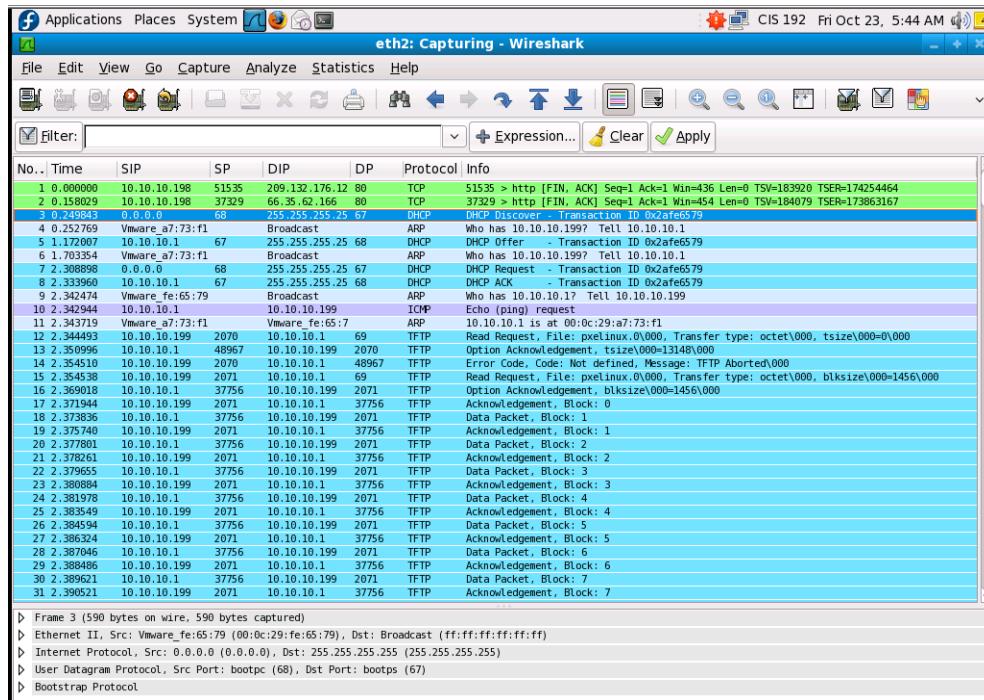
## PXE Boot (screen shots with network captures)



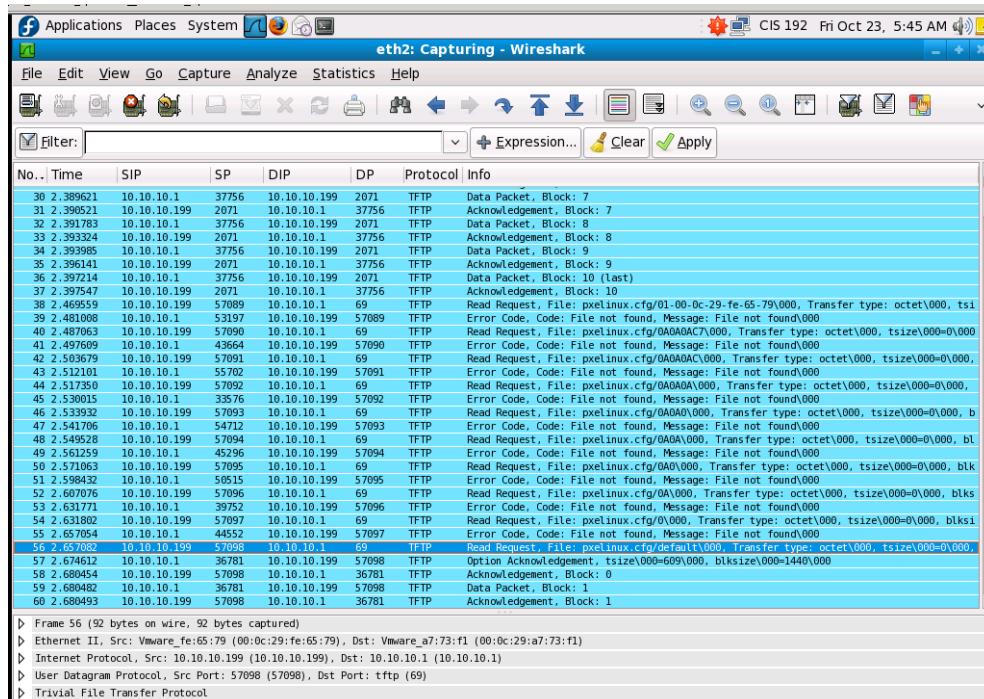
The VM cannot find boot code on any of the drives so it does a PXE boot.



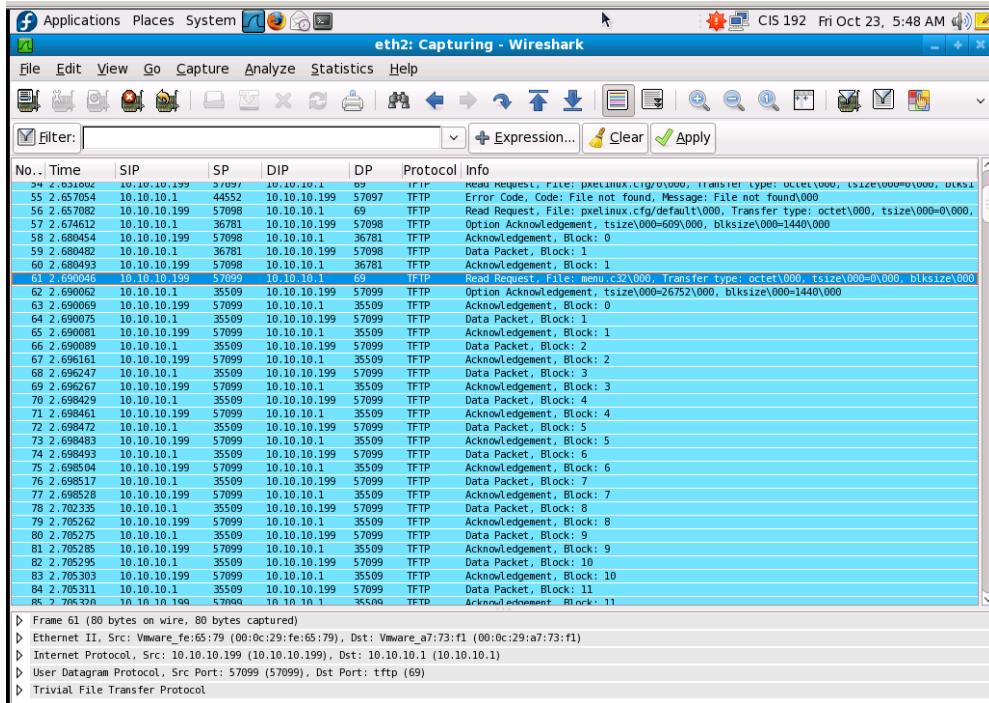
It gets an IP address from the DHCP server then contacts the boot (TFTP) server.



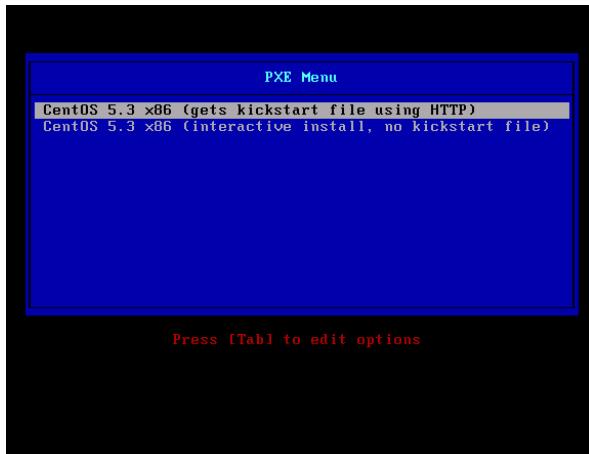
Shows VM getting IP address and downloading of the **pxeLinux.0** boot file.

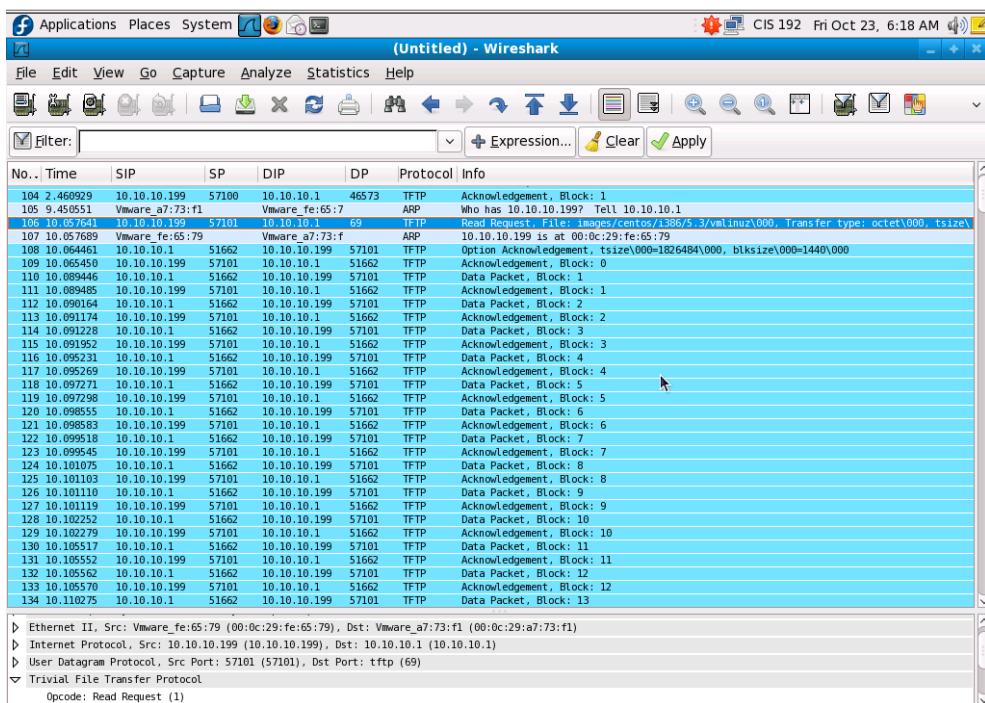
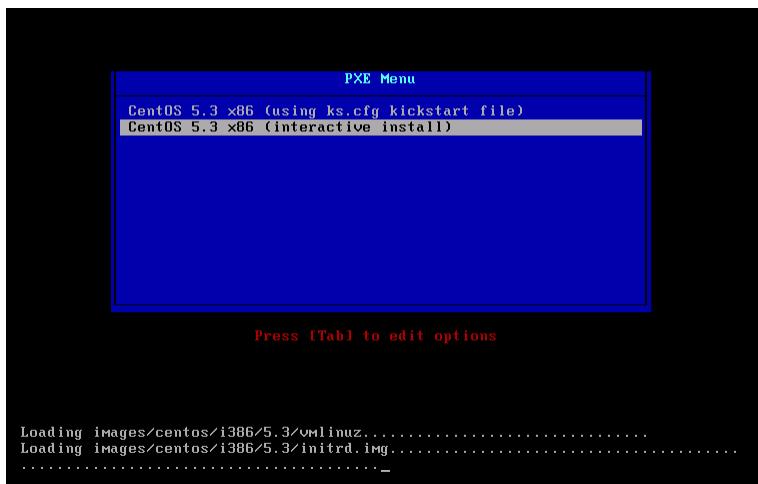


Keeps trying (and failing) to download additional files until it downloads the **default** file.



Downloading the **menu.c32** boot file

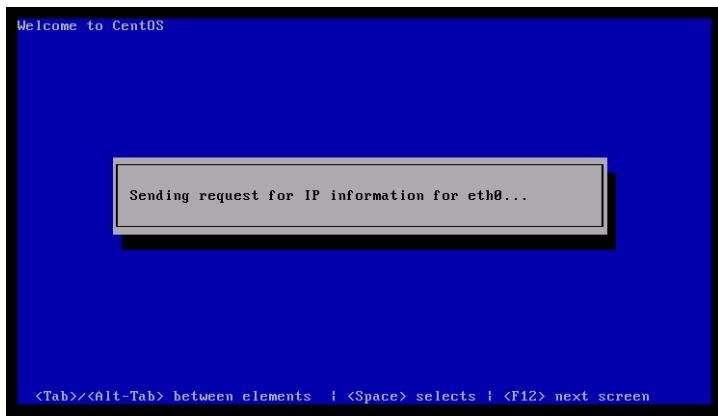


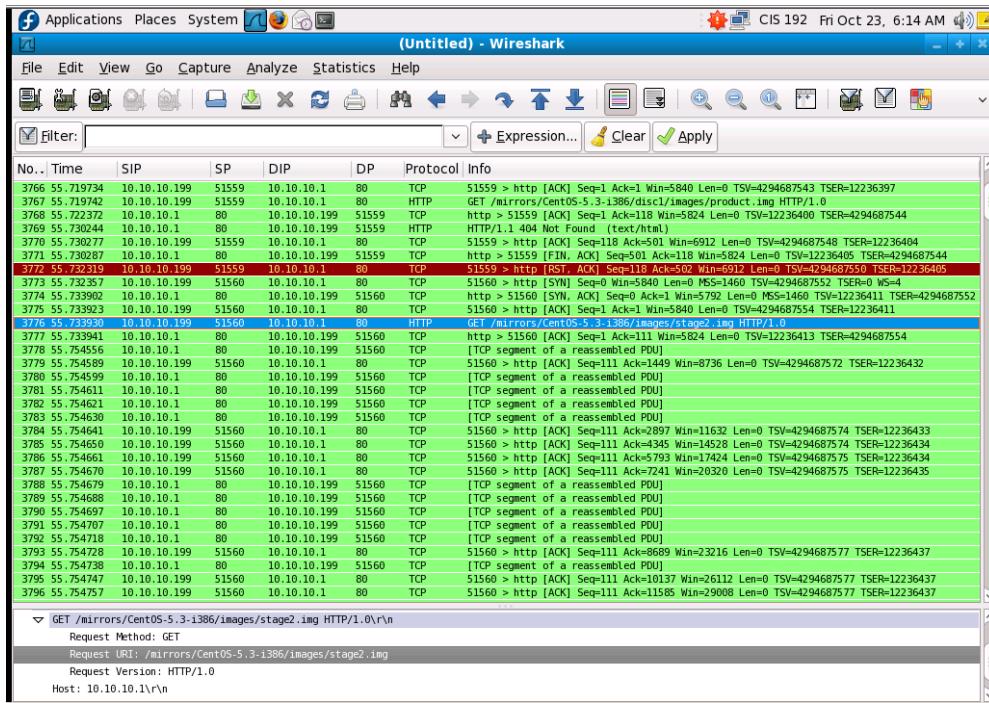
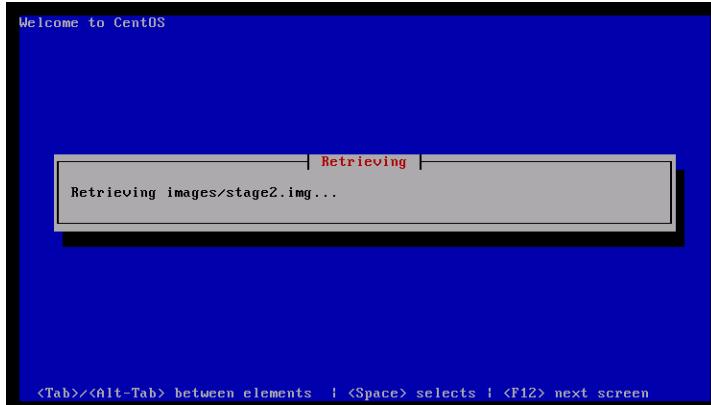


Retrieving vmlinuz using TFTP.

```
ACPI: LAPIC (acpi_id[0x00] lapic_id[0x00] enabled)
Processor #0 15:2 APIC version 17
ACPI: LAPIC_NMI (acpi_id[0x00] high edge lint[0x1])
ACPI: IOAPIC (id[0x01] address[0xfec00000] gsi_base[0])
IOAPIC[0]: apic_id 1, version 17, address 0xfec00000, GSI 0-23
ACPI: INT_SRC_OUR (bus 0 bus_irq 0 global_irq 2 high edge)
Enabling APIC mode: Flat. Using 1 I/O APICs
Using ACPI (MADT) for SMP configuration information
Allocating PCI resources starting at 30000000 (gap: 20000000:dec00000)
Detected 2592.947 MHz processor.
Built 1 zonelists. Total pages: 131072
Kernel command line: initrd=images/centos/i386/5.3/initrd.img ks ip=dhcp BOOT_I
MAGE=images/centos/i386/5.3/vmlinuz
Enabling fast FPU save and restore... done.
Enabling unmasked SIMD FPU exception support... done.
Initializing CPU#0
CPU 0 irqstacks, hard=c0754000 soft=c0734000
PID hash table entries: 4096 (order: 12, 16384 bytes)
Console: colour VGA+ 80x25
Dentry cache hash table entries: 65536 (order: 6, 262144 bytes)
Inode-cache hash table entries: 32768 (order: 5, 131072 bytes)
Memory: 588864k/524288k available (2122k kernel code, 14792k reserved, 884k data
, 228k init, 0k highmem)
Checking if this processor honours the WP bit even in supervisor mode... Ok.
-
```

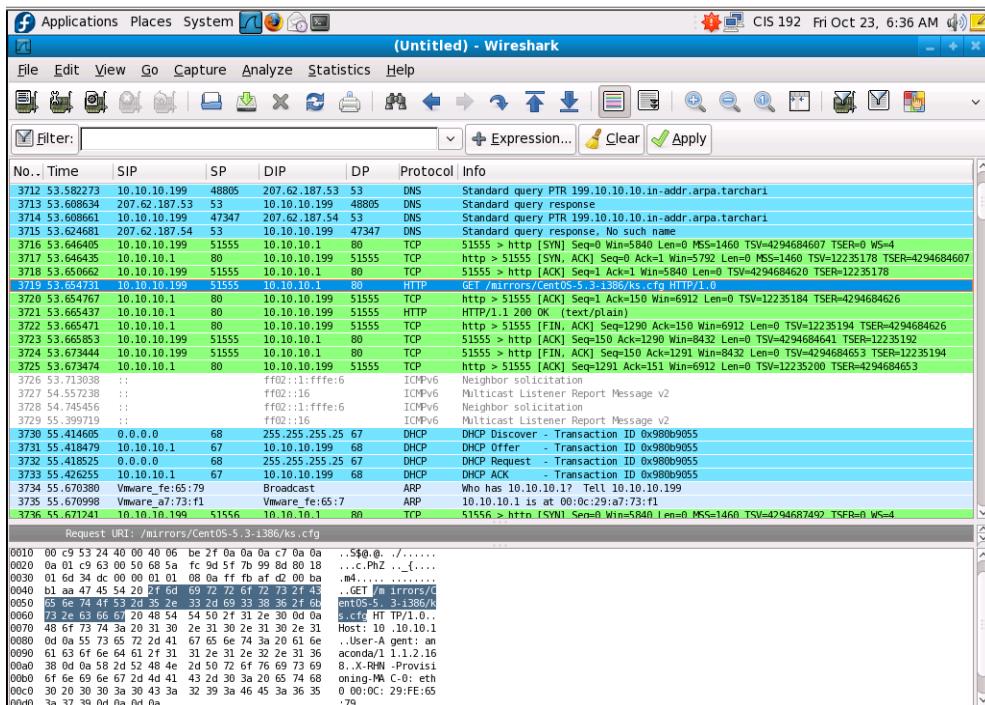
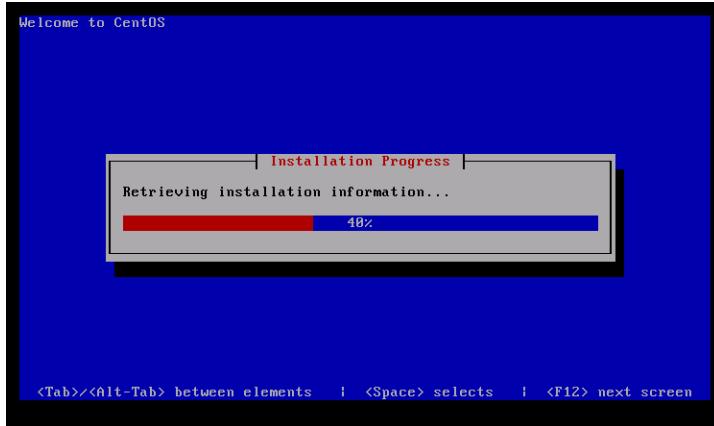
## Loading kernel



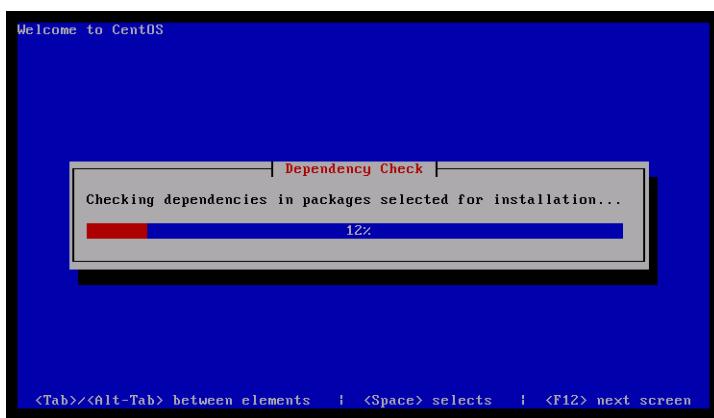


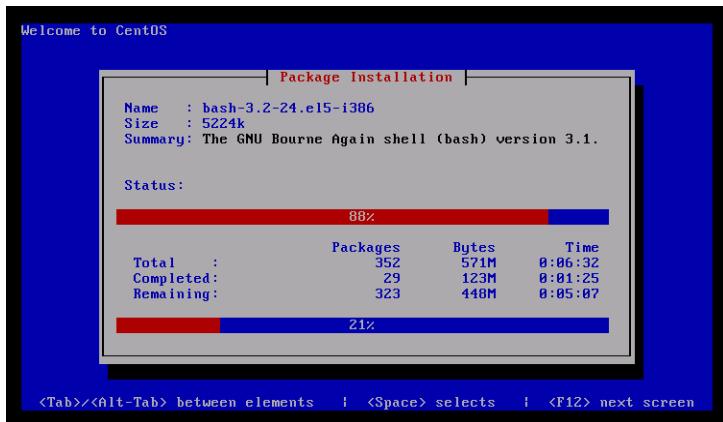
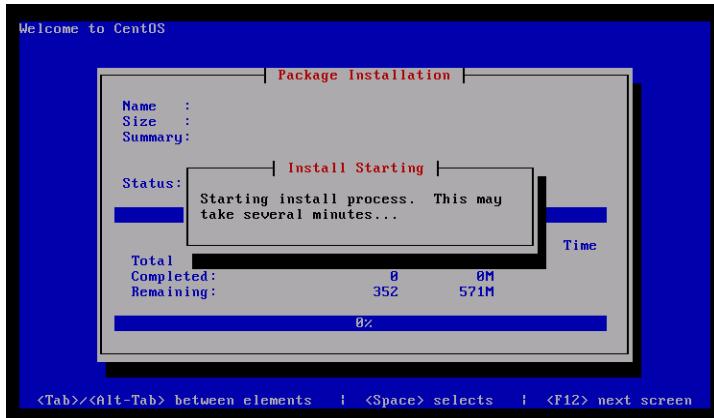
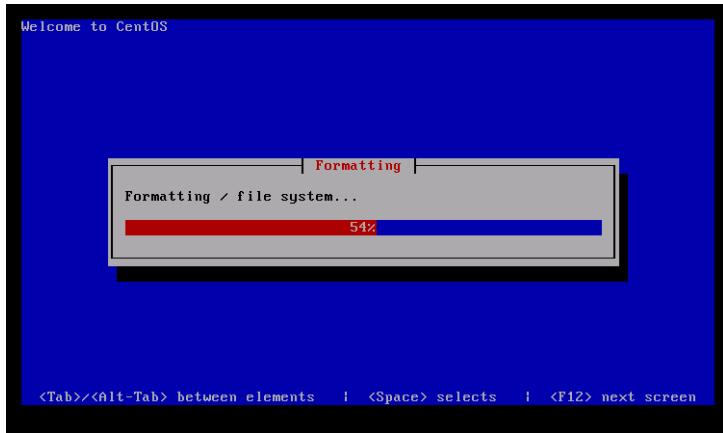
Retrieving /mirrors/CentOS-5.3-i386/images/stage2.img file using HTTP

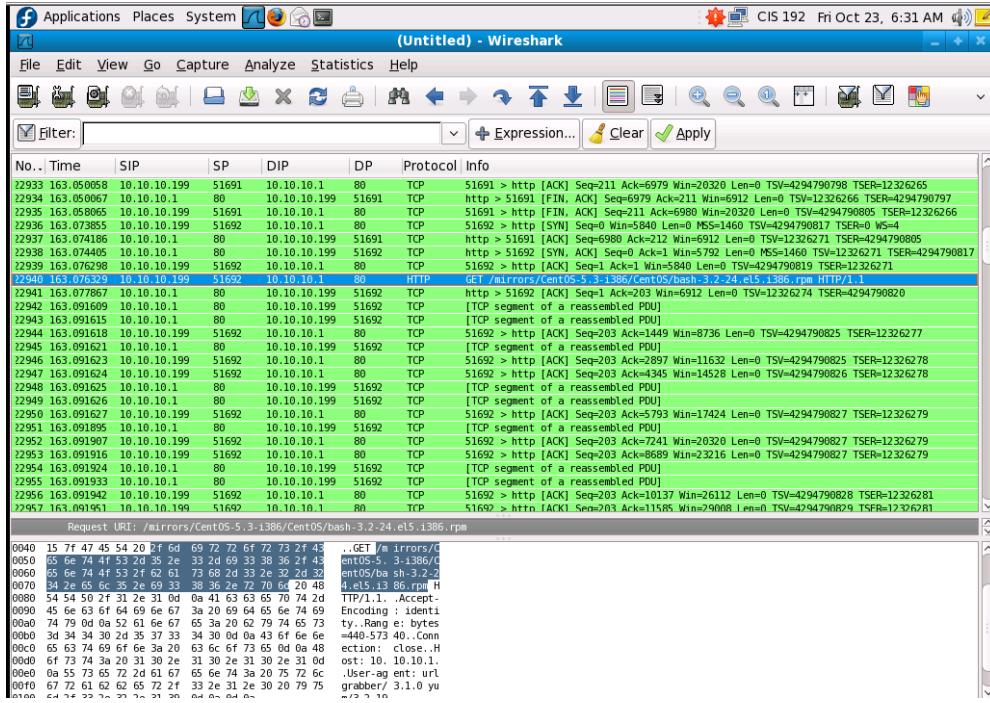




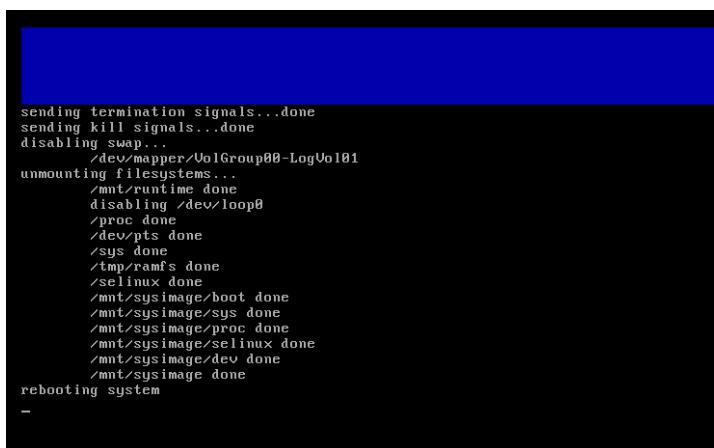
Retrieving ks.cfg kickstart file using HTTP

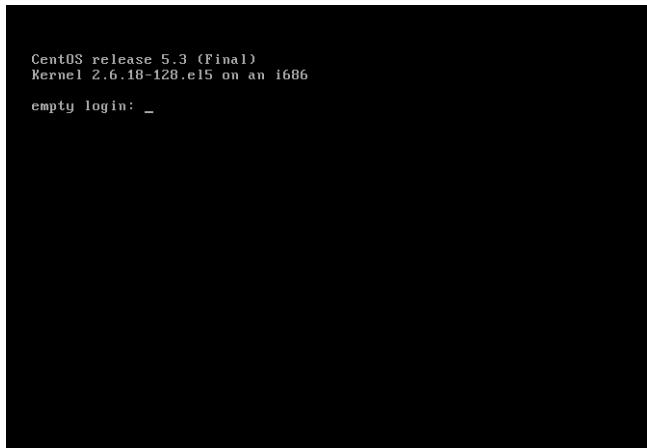
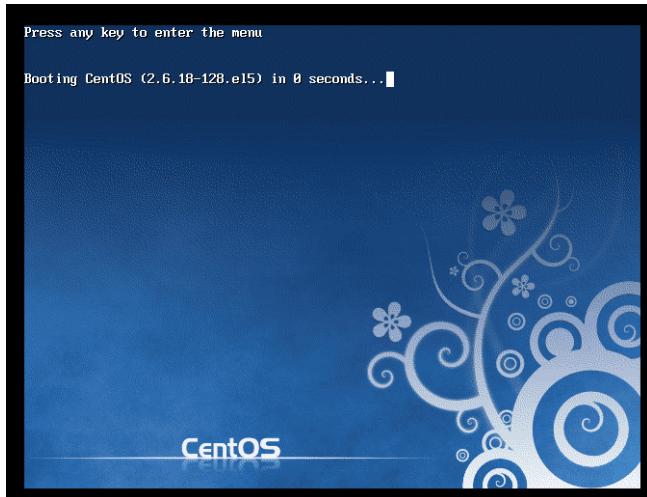






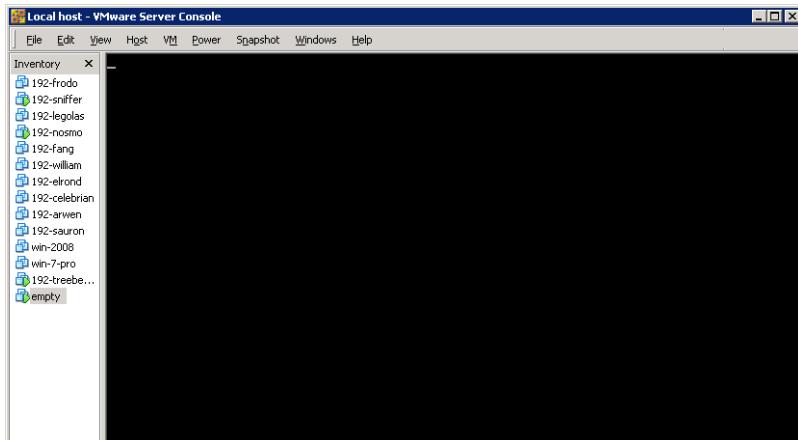
Retrieving bash package via HTTP





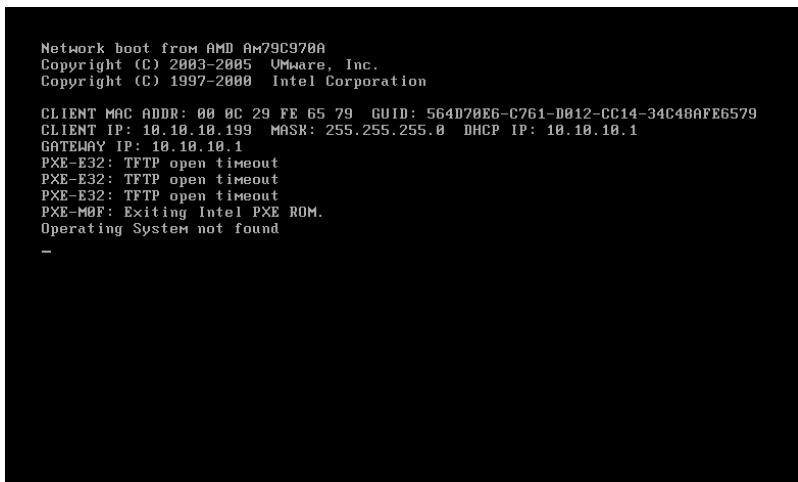
## Troubleshooting

Problem: Your installation did not complete successfully and the Empty VM will no longer boot using PXE mode. All you have is a black screen with the cursor blinking.



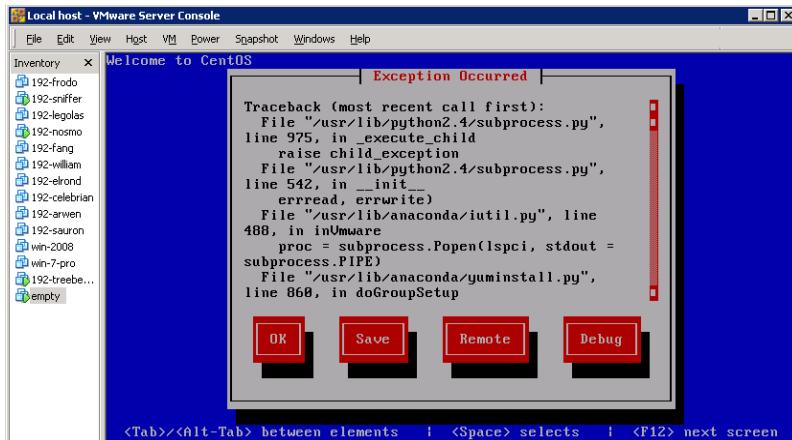
Workaround: You probably got the MBR setup but no OS installed. To force a PXE boot, reset the Empty VM, quickly click inside the VM during the BIOS boot sequence and then press the F12 function key. You have about 2 seconds to do this so don't dawdle.

Problem: TFTP times out trying to download boot files.



Workaround: Make sure your firewall has UDP port 69 open and SELinux is disabled.

Problem: Installation fails with an exception.

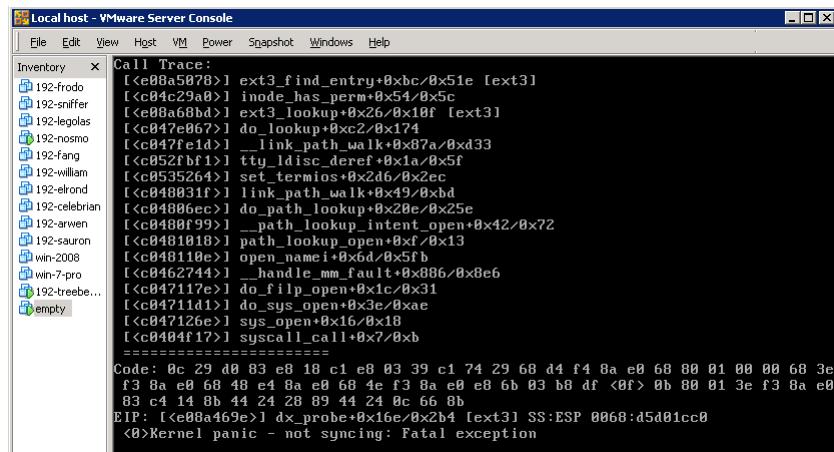


Workaround: Make sure your memory on the Empty VM is at least 384MB

## Nuking a Linux System Observations

I ended up re-installing the Empty VM several times to play with different PXE and kernel command line combinations. Here are some of the commands that you normally would NEVER use on a real system! The second method was the easiest and fastest.

- **`rm -rf /`**
  - This leaves the MBR and swap partition intact. Most of the files are deleted from the / partition however not all. bash is still running and you can navigate what is left of the file tree using shell built-in echo \* and cd commands.
- **`dd if=/dev/zero of=/dev/sda bs=512 count=1 sync`**
  - Blows away the MBR. Use the sync command to force the write to disk of the buffered zero's.
- **`dd if=/dev/zero of=/dev/sda`**
  - Zeros out hard drive which results eventually in a Kernel Panic:



## **References**

CentOS PXE Setup

- [http://wiki.centos.org/HowTos/PXE/PXE\\_Setup](http://wiki.centos.org/HowTos/PXE/PXE_Setup)

SYSLINUX

- <http://syslinux.zytor.com/wiki/index.php/SYSLINUX>

Fedora Anaconda/Kickstart

- <http://fedoraproject.org/wiki/Anaconda/Kickstart>

RedHat EL4 Kickstart Options

- <http://www.redhat.com/docs/manuals/enterprise/RHEL-4-Manual/sysadmin-guide/s1-kickstart2-options.html>

Intel PXE 2.1 Specification

- <http://download.intel.com/design/archives/wfm/downloads/pxespec.pdf>

Setting up a PXE-Boot Server (Net Llama!)

- [http://linux-sxs.org/internet\\_serving/pxeboot.html](http://linux-sxs.org/internet_serving/pxeboot.html)