

## DragonFlyBSD - Bug #2141

### loader and/or documentation broken

10/09/2011 07:15 AM - sjg

<b>Status:</b> New	<b>Start date:</b>
<b>Priority:</b> Urgent	<b>Due date:</b>
<b>Assignee:</b>	<b>% Done:</b> 0%
<b>Category:</b>	<b>Estimated time:</b> 0.00 hour
<b>Target version:</b>	
<b>Description</b> For example,  The ehci driver is automatically loaded upon boot. To disable this behavior temporarily, the ehci_load variable can be unset at the loader prompt (see loader(8)). To disable it permanently, the hint.ehci.0.disabled tunable can be set to 1 in /boot/loader.conf.  But when operating from the loader prompt the ehci_load variable has no effect at all, it seems to only be checked from the menu, which is useless if you are operating from the prompt.  This is confusing at best, but I am leaning more towards steaming pile. The loader or the documentation needs to be reworked.	

### History

#### #1 - 10/09/2011 07:19 PM - swildner

I agree the loader(8) docs need upgrading. In fact, I even wholeheartedly agree. Nothing of the dloader stuff Matt did touched the documentation unfortunately, so it's pretty much in the state we had before.

That said, I don't think this particular issue is related to the docs not being up-to-date, though. What did you do exactly to prevent loading ehci.ko? Note that the variable has to be `_unset_` (as the manpage says) and not `_set_` to NO or 0.

#### #2 - 10/09/2011 09:13 PM - thomas.nikolajsen

ehci\_load=  
on loader prompt works.

The problem is local vs kernel env variables:  
set / unset works on kernel env variables only;  
this can have the effect that a variable has an instance both as local and kernel env variable, but with different value.

IMO set / unset should also do operation on local variable.  
Any objections?

Local variables was introduced by dloader, mainly to store menu stuff, which the kernel has no use for.

I did update loader docs (man & help file) after dloader introduction, so I think it is in a rather good shape :)

**#3 - 10/09/2011 10:41 PM - swildner**

On Sun, 09 Oct 2011 23:13:37 +0200, Thomas Nikolajsen (via DragonFly issue tracker) <[sinknull@leaf.dragonflybsd.org](mailto:sinknull@leaf.dragonflybsd.org)> wrote:

>  
> Thomas Nikolajsen <[thomas.nikolajsen@mail.dk](mailto:thomas.nikolajsen@mail.dk)> added the comment:  
>  
> ehci\_load=  
> on loader prompt works.  
>  
> The problem is local vs kernel env variables:  
> set / unset works on kernel env variables only;  
> this can have the effect that a variable has an instance  
> both as local and kernel env variable, but with different value.  
>  
> IMO set / unset should also do operation on local variable.  
> Any objections?

Isn't there lunset for this purpose?

> Local variables was introduced by dloader, mainly to store menu stuff,  
> which the kernel has no use for.  
>  
> I did update loader docs (man & help file) after dloader introduction,  
> so I think it is in a rather good shape :)

Oops, sorry, must've forgot that.

Sascha

**#4 - 10/10/2011 06:59 AM - sjg**

neither ehci\_load= nor set ehci\_load= on the loader prompt works.

**#5 - 10/18/2011 02:32 PM - thomas.nikolajsen**

Try:  
lunset ehci\_load  
set hint.ehci.0.disabled=1

Or:  
lunset ehci\_load  
unset ehci\_load

Or (will do same; forgot I had done 2nd cmd below):  
ehci\_load=

unset ehci\_load

I have committed fix: just description of kenv vs local variables.

Problem is wrong docs, as you write, we didn't note that 'loadall' uses local (\_load) vars and 'boot' uses (the old) kenv vars. Same problem for acpi\_load.

After release I might fix loader to remove this confusing (schizophrenic ?) facility that a variable can have two instances with different value; I see no use for it.

**#6 - 01/20/2012 10:51 AM - sjg**

> After release I might fix loader to remove this confusing  
> (schizophrenic ?) facility that a variable can have two instances with  
> different value; I see no use for it.

Seeing as the next release is a .0, I would like to see this done (if you have the time).