

VBoot v2 beta available for download

Posted by huisinro - 2011/11/15 20:48

It's in the regular download area. Free registration required.

Changes:

- (1) complete new implementations for disk drivers: vbootbus.sys, vbootfs.sys, and vbootmp.sys. All windows version now uses same disk driver.
- (2) significant disk performance improvement, and lower memory use compared to v1.
- (3) a file filter driver is added to implement "hide" option to protect real disk accesses. You can now configure to only use the vhd disk without touching any of the real disks.
- (4) support for merge, compact and expand of virtual disks.
- (5) support mounting nested virtual disks (max 2 levels). For example, you can boot to a vhd, then create another vhd inside the vhd, and you can use "vbootctl mount" to mount the 2nd level vhd file.

Not changed:

The boot loader (vbootldr, vbootldr.mbr, grub folder) is not changed at all at the moment, so the bugs related to boot loader are still there.

Windows 8 support is still very experimental, install windows 8 to a vhd via vboot does not work. But you can run "vbootctl prepare current" inside a booted vhd using Windows 8 builtin support, then you can boot Windows 8 via vboot. We will release an update next weeks to fully support Winodws 8.

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Re:VBoot v2 beta available for download

Posted by jmardian - 2011/11/16 06:20

If we have a paid copy of VBoot, do we use the file in the regular download area (same as trial users)?

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Re:VBoot v2 beta available for download

Posted by resident555 - 2011/11/16 11:22

Have any changes for linux users?

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Re:VBoot v2 beta available for download

Posted by huisinro - 2011/11/16 11:24

no, no chnages in this build for Linux, we are working on linux version too, to use same source base, and supports more kernel versions.

Re:VBoot v2 beta available for download

Posted by resident555 - 2011/11/16 11:32

and when wait for a Ubuntu 11.10 appliances and vloop

Re:VBoot v2 beta available for download

Posted by huisinro - 2011/11/16 11:35

for now, you can play with the trial. will send out download links for paid version after this beta stablizes over next two weeks. We will fix bugs reported.

jnardian wrote:

If we have a paid copy of VBoot, do we use the file in the regular download area (same as trial users)?

Re:VBoot v2 beta available for download

Posted by huisinro - 2011/11/16 19:06

Full Windows 8 (32- and 64- bit) support will be available on next update with some bug fixes, in a few days.

Re:VBoot v2 beta available for download

Posted by huisinro - 2011/11/17 21:01

vboot-v2.zip has been updated, with these two changes:

(1) fix immutable, snapshot bugs

(2) add support for Windows 8. Windows 8 32-bit now works fully.

Windows 8 64-bit must be installed using "vbootctl make", "vbootctl setup" will crash for Windows 8 64-bit at the moment.

Re:VBoot v2 beta available for download

Posted by huisinro - 2011/11/26 15:10

Since there are many requests on ram vhd boot. We will start to expose some "simple" ways of booting vhd to ram soon, before we release mBoot, the more powerful way of RAM booting.

for example, you can do something like this:

```
vboot harddisk="(hd0,1)/xp.vhd,ram,3G"
```

indicates the disk file will be fully loaded to RAM, and can grow to maximum 3G. The bootloader reserves 3G ram.

```
vboot harddisk="(hd0,1)/xp.vhd" immutable="ram,2G"
```

will place the child disk to memory (while base image still loads from disk as usual), maximum size is 2G.

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Re:VBoot v2 beta available for download

Posted by Natrix - 2011/12/15 18:55

Hi admin!

Can you tel us some news about the release of VBoot v2 ?

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Re:VBoot v2 beta available for download

Posted by huisinro - 2011/12/15 18:59

we will release the formal v2 end of this month. Will extend more days for the trial for now.

will be an update soon.

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Re:VBoot v2 beta available for download

Posted by huisinro - 2011/12/15 21:15

the zip file has been updated, expiring in Jan 15, 2012.

windows 2000 is now fully supported, you should be able to install it to vhd.

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Re:VBoot v2 beta available for download

Posted by Vortex - 2011/12/16 05:31

Hi huisinro,

Thanks for the new release. Here is my report.

When the Windows 2000 installer starts, I hit F6 to mount the virtual floppy. I am able to select and format the virtual partition (win2000.img raw image) but setup stops with the following message (Translated to English)

Insert the floppy labelled Vboot disk (scsi) Win XP/32-bit. Press any key when you are ready.

I cannot continue the installation at this point.

The grub.cfg file indicates the following :

```
floppy=(hd0,1)/vboot/vboot-2k.img
```

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Re:VBoot v2 beta available for download

Posted by MagicAndre1981 - 2011/12/16 07:17

huisinro wrote:

the zip file has been updated, expiring in Jan 15, 2012.

Improve the UX please. Why do you still have the exe files in different folders? Put all tools in the root of vboot dir and those exe are dummies which detect which Windows you use and call the exe which is correct for your Windows.

Example: Put the vbootctl.exe (32Bit to ensure it works on 32 and 64Bit) into C:vboot and if you run it, it detect if you use a 32Bit Windows it runs the version "C:vboottoolsx86vbootctl.exe" and if you have a 64Bit Windows it runs "C:vboottoolsamd64vbootctl.exe".

This makes the usage much easier for starters. Currently you have to go to different folders and run some tools from C:vboot and other from C:vboottoolsamd64 or C:vboottoolsx86. This sucks.

Can I now convert Vista WIMs to VHDs with drive C or is the Windows still drive D?

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Re:VBoot v2 beta available for download

Posted by huisinro - 2011/12/16 07:50

can you check the modified date on vbootvboot file? it should be Nov 2011. I made another update after

1st (after about 2 hrs), so make sure you redownload the latest zip file.

Vortex wrote:

Hi huisinro,

Thanks for the new release. Here is my report.

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I cannot continue the installation at this point.

The grub.cfg file indicates the following :

floppy=(hd0,1)/vboot/vboot-2k.img

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Re:VBoot v2 beta available for download

Posted by huisinro - 2011/12/16 07:53

MagicAndre1981,

there is no way to determine which exe to run under PE (i.e., when you boot windows 7 from cdrom). 32-bit exe won't run in 64-bit system.

vista D still doesn't work, it's in our plan, will try to fix it next build, just need to change some registry entries.

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Re:VBoot v2 beta available for download

Posted by Vortex - 2011/12/16 10:28

Hi huisinro,

My current vbootvboot file dates 20 February 2011. I downloaded now again the zip file and the new vboot file dates 27 November 2011. I will try again the Windows 2000 installation.

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Re:VBoot v2 beta available for download

Posted by Vortex - 2011/12/16 12:19

Hi huisinro,

I tried the latest vboot update and this time I installed successfully Windows 2000 on the virtual disc. Thanks again for the new release.

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Re:VBoot v2 beta available for download

Posted by huisinro - 2011/12/17 11:11

for windows 2000, have you tried to install it to a vhd file in windows xp/7 host file system? due to w2k's low version NTFS support, it may not work. VBoot uses NTFS driver to load the vhd file. Wonder if possible to update w2k ntfs driver.

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Re:VBoot v2 beta available for download

Posted by Vortex - 2011/12/17 14:14

Hi huisinro,

I installed Windows 2000 on an .img file hosted by a Windows XP system. I will try to install on a .vhd file. If I am not wrong, a .vhd file is basically an .img file appended with a special header sized 512 bytes.

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Re:VBoot v2 beta available for download

Posted by huisinro - 2011/12/17 14:29

that's no difference, raw image or vhd. what is your disk size?

we tried to install w2k to a modern pc, never succeed due to the lower version of NTFS inside win2k.

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Re:VBoot v2 beta available for download

Posted by Vortex - 2011/12/17 15:40

Hi huisinro,

The .img file has a size of 1 Gb. Windows 2000 moves the page file to the host partition and that's not a problem for me.

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Re:VBoot v2 beta available for download

Posted by huisinro - 2011/12/17 16:24

i mean the host disk size. win2k NTFS may have some limitations.

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Re:VBoot v2 beta available for download

Posted by Vortex - 2011/12/18 05:36

Hi huisinro,

Host disk size = 160 Gb having 3 partitions.

C = 49.9 Gb (partition hosting the virtual .img disc)

E = 49.5 Gb

F = 49.5 Gb

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Re:VBoot v2 beta available for download

Posted by huisinro - 2011/12/18 15:51

ok, we have problems installing w2k to vhd files on large disk size.

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Re:VBoot v2 beta available for download

Posted by huisinro - 2011/12/19 10:26

BTW, the latest build enabled some ram boot options, although I don't recommend it yet. The full blown ram boot will be available in future. You can play it like this for now (subject to change):

```
menuentry "xp iso ram boot" {
    vboot cdrom=(hd0,1)/xpsp2.iso boot=cdrom
    initrd16 cdrom=(hd0,1)/xpsp2.iso
}
```

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Re:VBoot v2 beta available for download

Posted by Vortex - 2011/12/19 13:48

Hi huisinro,

Here is the report of the test performed with .vhd image file.

Virtual partition = win2000.vhd , 1 Gb size
Host partition = 49.9 Gb

Windows 2000 installed successfully on the .vhd file.

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Re:VBoot v2 beta available for download

Posted by Natrix - 2011/12/20 11:41

do you have enable feature for the immutable child disk in ram ?

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Re:VBoot v2 beta available for download

Posted by huisinro - 2011/12/20 11:47

not yet, this build contains only limited ram support, we are adding more.

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Re:VBoot v2 beta available for download

Posted by Natrix - 2011/12/21 22:49

tell us when you got more feature to test.
And for now, the ram support like "initrd16", can be use for load vhd in ram ??.. even if you dont recommend it.(I love booting dangerously.)

```
menuentry "Windows 7 VHD to RAM" {
vboot harddisk=(hd0,1)/windows7.vhd boot=harddisk
initrd16 harddisk=(hd0,1)/windows7.vhd
}
```

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Re:VBoot v2 beta available for download

Posted by Natrix - 2011/12/21 22:51

And another thing is that my new board Intel DX58SO2 dont work with Vboot boot loader, is a X58 chipset like my other board that work well with VBoot boot loader. The only thing the board have more is the VT-D feature.. I dont know if it cause the problem.
Do you have more command for loader the VBoot boot loader into memory
I know that "set vbootcore_addr=6400000" should change where it load but I try a lot of value but without

success.

I know that I could use bootmgr from now, but I really want the vboot boot loader to load..
Is VBoot v2 will have some modification for that ???
thank you

Re:VBoot v2 beta available for download

Posted by Natrix - 2011/12/23 09:54

When you take about mBoot does it have feature like this:

(2) Junction Points Tool

Junction point is a feature of the NTFS file system that provides the ability to reparse the directories. To create a junction point, enter the mount point and the target path, then click Create button. For instance, assuming that the mount point is C:ABC and the target path is Z:DEF where drive Z is a ram disk, then all access to C:ABC by Windows or any applications will be redirected to Z:DEF.

Tips:

- a. Mount point must be an empty or non-exist directory.
 - b. Mount point must be on a NTFS file system partition.
-

For more information on good ram feature go see primo-ramdisk and fancycache at:
<http://www.romexsoftware.com/en-us/primo-ramdisk/instructions-mini-tools>

I hope vmlite/vboot will have more greater feature then these softwares, since vboot can load ramdisk/filedisk before windows boot (or will). I'm sure vboot will be the number #1 choise for these kind of needs and even more since its already ready for use for booting vhd and make instant recovery. VBoot is what every compagny users will need!

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Re:VBoot v2 beta available for download

Posted by huisinro - 2011/12/23 14:17

yes, our tool does support NTFS junction points and hard links. Without these, you won't be able to install some components, e.g., .NET Framework, to the ram.

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Re:VBoot v2 beta available for download

Posted by jmardian - 2012/01/08 08:36

Any update on when VBoot v2 will come out of beta?

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Re:VBoot v2 beta available for download

Posted by huisinro - 2012/01/08 12:43

There are still a few serious bugs to fix, such as modifying MBR record in some cases. Most likely, it will be next month that we release the formal version.

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Re:VBoot v2 beta available for download

Posted by MasterX - 2012/03/31 16:25

Trying out v2 and had troubles after installing it from Windows 7. It had installed to both of my HD's instead of using the default boot drive. During boot it calls it's self from my 2nd HD, so moving the vbootldr.mbr to C and updating the error it put into my boot menu should be good to go. Have not yet booted it ;)

I've used Grub in the past with out trouble and really like it, it's great for booting ISO's.

You need to fix this guys ;)

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Re:VBoot v2 beta available for download

Posted by MasterX - 2012/03/31 19:48

Still have issues, some reason it is calling the cfg from some unknown place. Should be calling it from the default dir "C:vbootgrub" but it does not.

The (grub.cfg) also is not in the root, so where is it?

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Re:VBoot v2 beta available for download

Posted by csparks5 - 2012/05/23 13:01

can vmlite work on windows 8 consumer preview ?

I am trying to find a VM for windows 8.

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Re:VBoot v2 beta available for download

Posted by huisinro - 2012/05/23 20:26

yes, it should work well on Windows 8.

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Is this project gone forever?

Posted by Vas709 - 2013/03/13 10:23

You have promised to update your new version of VBoot in Febuary, 2013. But you didn't do it. Is this project gone forever? Thank you.

Vasja Stojkovic

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