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[Tevelyan](#) - Posted Oct 8th 2015

Howto to get Debian Jessie to install via the serial console using boot media:

The Debian-Installer for Jessie support serial console installs and will even automatically configure the install target to boot on the serial console. The problem is however the official install ISOs are not configured to boot the installer on the serial console; so you'll have to edit it.

Another import note: When creating such an ISO you need make sure it has a hybrid MBR so that it can also be used as USB stick boot medium. Otherwise you're going to need a CD-ROM drive...

So here's howto do it

Step	Description	Command
1	Create somewhere to work	<code>mkdir deb-serial; cd deb-serial ;</code>
2	Grab the net install ISO	<code>curl -L -O http://cdimage.debian.org/debian-cd/8.2.0/amd64/iso-cd/debian-8.2.0-amd64-netinst.iso ;</code>
3	Mount the image via loop	<code>mkdir old ; sudo mount -o loop debian-8.2.0-amd64-netinst.iso old ;</code>
4	Copy all the files away to a new 'master' so that you can edit some ('shopt -s dotglob' - this tells bash that '*' should also match (hidden) '.dot' files)	<code>mkdir new ; shopt -s dotglob ; cp -rv old/* new/ ;</code>
5	Edit the boot loader (syslinux / isolinux) to use the serial console. See files changes below	<code>vi new/isolinux/isolinux.cfg ; vi new/isolinux/txt.cfg ; vi new/isolinux/adtxt.cfg ;</code>
6	Build a new boot ISO (with Hybrid MBR) You will need xorriso and syslinux installed: <code>sudo apt-get install syslinux xorriso</code>	<code>xorriso -as mkisofs -r -J -joliet-long -l -cache-inodes -isohybrid-mbr /usr/lib/syslinux/isohdpx.bin -partition_offset 16 -A "Debian8.2" -b isolinux/isolinux.bin -c isolinux/boot.cat -no-emul-boot -boot-load-size 4 -boot-info-table -o debian-8.2-serial-install.iso ./new/ ;</code>
7	Write the new ISO to a USB stick. '/dev/sdX' is your USB sticks device node. I like to use 'file -s' to check that I have the correct node. (May need to prefix dd with 'sudo')	<code>file -s /dev/sdX ; dd if=debian-8.2-serial-install.iso of=/dev/sdX bs=1k ;</code>

I normally use

(gnu)screen has my serial terminal (`screen /dev/tty.USB0 115200`), but my version of screen did not like Debian-Installers ncurses UI; all the characters were messed up. In the end I had to use 'minicom' (`minicom -b 115200 -D /dev/tty.USB0`)

Files (changed highlighted bold):

```
isolinux.cfg
# D-I config version 2.0
# search path for the c32 support libraries (libcom32, libutil etc.)
serial 0 115200
console 0
path
include menu.cfg
#default vesamenu.c32
#prompt 0
#timeout 0
```

```
default install
label install
txt.cfg  menu label ^Install
          menu default
          kernel /install.amd/vmlinuz
          append vga=off console=ttyS0,115200n8 initrd=/install.amd/initrd.gz --- console=ttyS0,115200n8

```

```
label expert
  menu label ^Expert install
  kernel /install.amd/vmlinuz
  append priority=low vga=off console=ttyS0,115200n8 initrd=/install.amd/initrd.gz --- console=ttyS0,115200n8
adtxt.cfg include rtxt.cfg
label auto
  menu label ^Automated install
  kernel /install.amd/vmlinuz
  append auto=true priority=critical vga=off console=ttyS0,115200n8 initrd=/install.amd/initrd.gz ---
console=ttyS0,115200n8

```

In 'isolinux.cfg' the 'serial' command has to come first. 'vesamenu' obviously can not be used, in my version there is no alternative menu, so the it will simple boot in to the 'install' profile from 'txt.cfg'.

I will assume that most know how to install debian from here.

NB: This is a Net Install, so your APU will need an internet connection.

Post last edited Oct 8th 2015