

NEXTSTEP for SPARC

Title: SPARC Frequently Asked Questions

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Introduction

Welcome to the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) list for NEXTSTEP Release 3.3 for SPARC. This document is updated regularly to reflect NeXT Technical Support's most commonly-asked technical questions about NEXTSTEP for SPARC. You can use this document as a quick reference guide for issues that may or may not be readily available in other documentation.

When you are required to type a command, the text that you need to type is denoted by the **bold** typeface.

We update this document regularly, and we welcome comments and suggestions. You can contact Technical Support by phone at +1 (800) 955-NEXT or +1 (415) 780-2922, by fax at +1 (415) 780-2801, or by e-mail at nextanswers-request@next.com.

SPARC Supported Configurations

Q: Which Sun SPARC systems are supported by NEXTSTEP Release 3.3 for SPARC, and how should they be configured?

A: See NeXTanswers document 1843_3.3_SUN_Compatibility_Guide.rtf.

SPARCstation4 Known Problems

Q: After installation, why does my SPARCstation4 hang with ""localhost loginwindow Could not find WindowServer port!" messages?

A: NEXTSTEP does not support the optional video SIMM on SPARCstation4's. You must remove this SIMM for NEXTSTEP to work.

Solaris and NEXTSTEP

Q: Can NEXTSTEP be installed on a Sun which has other disks for Solaris attached to it?

A: Yes, it is possible to have NeXTSTEP installed on an external disk while maintaining Solaris on the internal disk.

Q: Does the NEXTSTEP disk have to be the one with the lowest SCSI ID?

A: No, NEXTSTEP can be installed on any disk with a valid SCSI ID. Generally, a SPARCstation internal disk is always at SCSI ID 3. External disks under SPARC may use SCSI ID 1, 2, or 5. SCSI ID 4 is generally used for tapes, and CD-ROM drives are generally at SCSI ID 6, but this is changeable.

Q: Is there a good way to toggle which disk/OS to boot?

A: You can specify which disk to boot in the Sun ROM monitor with **boot diskX** where X is the disk from which to boot. To see a list of SCSI devices on the system and their corresponding disk numbers, use the **probe-scsi** command at the Sun ROM monitor.

Also, if you wanted to set up the system to always default to booting from NEXTSTEP, you could set the NVRAM parameter as follows:

setenv boot-device diskX

Q: Is it possible to access Solaris files from NEXTSTEP, and vice versa?

A: No, you cannot mount a Solaris UNIX filesystem from NEXTSTEP or vice versa. You can mount CDs intended for Solaris since they are ISO-9660 format.

Q: Okay, I've set up a dual-boot machine using one disk for NEXTSTEP and another for Solaris. Whenever I log in

under NEXTSTEP, I get a panel which says "This disk is damaged: initialize?" with options to initialize, repair, or ignore. The default option is "Initialize." What should I do?

A: This happens because NEXTSTEP attempts to mount the Solaris disk but does not know how to read its filesystem. You should click "Ignore." *Choosing either of the other options may result in irreparable data loss on the Solaris disk.*

This can be avoided by adding an entry in **/etc/fstab** that will force NEXTSTEP to ignore the Solaris disk automatically. The disk type for the Solaris disk should be 'ignore'. See the `mntent(5)` UNIX manual page for more information.

Installing Solaris over NEXTSTEP

Q: Solaris 2.x can't format a disk on which NEXTSTEP was installed. Solaris complains about a trashed label.

A: Solaris expects the hard disk to be labeled a certain way. If you drop back a few versions of Solaris, it will work using an old version of Sun's formatter/installer. A work around is to use SunOS 4.1.x to reformat and then install Solaris 2.x. Another solution is to boot single user with NEXTSTEP from a CD, run **sdform /dev/rsd0a**, boot off the Solaris CD with **boot cdrom /kernel/unix**, abort the install and run format. Then run **suninstall**.

CD-ROM Compatibility

Q: What CD-ROM drives can be used to install NEXTSTEP?

A: Due to restrictions with Sun hardware, only Sun CD-ROM drives can be used to install NEXTSTEP.

Q: Can a wider range of CD-ROM drives be used to read CD-ROMs once NEXTSTEP has been installed?

A: Yes.

OBP ROM Compatibility

Q: What version of OBP ROMs must my SPARCstation have to run NEXTSTEP 3.3?

A: Machines with OBPs before version 2.12 will hang during boot. To run NEXTSTEP on a systems with an OPB version before 2.12, the OBP ROMs must be upgraded. Customers should contact SUN for additional details.

