Q: Is there any way to boot from a release CD-ROM disc and *not* be required to initialize or upgrade the hard disk drive?   I want to be able to view, copy, move, etc. files, run programs, and perform other similar operations.

A: While you can't boot a full NEXTSTEP environment (Workspace Manager, et al.), you can boot single-user from a CD-ROM disc.

Intel computers
Insert the CD-ROM disc and the boot floppy and boot the system.   At the boot: prompt type:

>   boot: **mach_kernel -s**

Follow any instructions (it may appear as though an install or upgrade is being performed; be patient) until the UNIX command line prompt is displayed.

NeXT computers
In the ROM monitor type the following commands (after inserting the CD-ROM disc):

For Turbo systems

>   NeXT> **bsd(*n*,0,0) sdmach -s rootdev=sd*n***

Where *n* is the unit number of the CD-ROM drive.

For Pre-Turbo systems with internal floppy
Insert the boot floppy and type:

      NeXT> **bfd -s**

For Pre-Turbo systems with SCSI floppy
Insert the boot floppy and type:

      NeXT> **bsd(*n*,0,0) sdmach -s rootdev=sd*n***

Where *n* is the unit number of the floppy drive.   In this scenario, it *may* be helpful to have the CD-ROM drive set to a *higher* SCSI address than the SCSI floppy.

Note that when booted single user from a CD-ROM, the file system is mounted read-only. Certain functions may not be available.   This state can be somewhat alleviated by mounting /tmp on another available disk.   Use the -n option with the mount command to prevent writing to /etc/mtab (which fails, obviously).

Once in single-user mode, you can still run the CD-ROM build disk scripts by running the

rc scripts:

        # **sh /etc/rc**

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Valid for 3.0, 3.1, 3.2