

# Re: Replacing the file system

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*Source:* <http://newsgroups.derkeiler.com/Archive/Comp/comp.os.minix/2007-03/msg00172.html>

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- *From:* Smit de JF <[jfdsmit@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:jfdsmit@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* 17 Mar 2007 23:08:18 GMT
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n8allan@xxxxxxxx wrote:

I am in the dreaming phase of a derivative OS with a non-traditional file system. Perhaps I am delusional, but the message based architecture and the fact that the file system is in user mode makes me wonder if replacing the Minix file system would require less massive surgery than most other kernels. My primary wonder and concern centers around bootstrapping and the relationship between the kernel and the file system for things like paging. Would anybody mind commenting on this; perhaps a rough guestimate on the effort of such an undertaking or even a few ideas about possible challenges?

Well, to answer both parts of your concern:

- the boot monitor reads part of the file system in the Minix partition to find the correct boot image to load. Changing the file system requires changing the boot monitor. I have no clue how much work this is but the book states that the boot monitor is quite complex, so it's probably more than five minutes work.
- Minix does not use paging, so no file system problems there.

Regards,

Jens

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"[In the end, people] get furious at IT that the goddamn magic isn't working"  
— Stewart Dean

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