NAME

bootparams – boot parameter data base

SYNOPSIS

/etc/bootparams

DESCRIPTION

The **bootparams** file contains a list of client entries that diskless clients use for booting. Diskless booting clients retrieve this information by issuing requests to a server running the **rpc.bootparamd**(1M) program. The **bootparams** file may be used in conjunction with or in place of other sources for the **bootparams** information. See **nsswitch.conf**(4).

For each client the file contains an entry with the client's name and a list of boot parameter values for that client. Each entry should have the form:

clientname identifier-specifier ...

The first item of each entry is the host name of the diskless client. The asterisk ('*') character may be used as a "wildcard" in place of the client name in a single entry. That entry will apply to all clients for whom there is not an entry that specifically names them.

This is followed by one or more whitespace characters and a series of identifier-specifiers separated by whitespace characters.

Each identifier-specifier has the form:

*identifier***=***server***:***pathname*

or

identifier=domain-name

The first form is used for file-specific identifiers. A file-specific *identifier* is a key that is used by diskless clients to identify a file or filesystem. *server* is the name of the server that will provide the file or filesystem to the diskless client, and *pathname* is the path to the exported file or filesystem on the specified server. The equal sign ('=') and colon (':') characters are used in the indicated positions. There should not be any whitespace within an identifier-specifier.

Non-file-specific identifiers use the second form of identifier-specifier. One non-file-specific value for *identifier* is supported: the assignment of the client's domain name. In this case, the value used for *identifier* is **domain**. *domain-name* must be the client's domain name. The algorithm for determining a client's domain name is to first check for a **domain** identifier in the client-specific entry and then in "wildcard" entry. If none is found, the server's domain name is used.

An entry may be split across multiple lines of the file. The backslash ('\') character should be used as the last character of a line to signify that the entry continues on the next line. The line may only be split in places where whitespace is allowed in the entry.

A variation of the first form (*identifier***=***server***:***pathname*) is used for the **ns** key which forces **sysidtool**(1M) to use a specific name service. By default, **sysidtool** uses NIS+ in preference to NIS if it can find a NIS+ server for the system's domain on the subnet. This key may be necessary if you are trying to set up a hands-off installation, or if the name server is on a different subnet, which is common with NIS+.

If this key is not used, **sysidtool** uses broadcast to attempt to bind to either a NIS+ or NIS server; if a name server is not on the local subnet, which is possible for NIS+, the bind will fail, automatic configuration of the name service will fail, and an interactive screen is displayed, prompting the user to specify the name service.

The **ns** entry has the form:

> **ns=**[*server*] **:** [*nameservice*] [(*netmask*)]

where:

server	the name of a server that will provide a name service to bind to
nameservice	the name service (**nis**, **nisplus**, or **none**);
netmask	a series of four numbers separated by periods that specifies which portion of an IP address is the network part, and which is the host part.

The **ns** keyword can be set in **add_install_client** or by Host Manager.

EXAMPLES

Here is an example of an entry in the **bootparams** file:

```
client1    root=server1:/export/client1/root \
           swap=server1:/export/client1/swap \
           domain=bldg1.workco.com
           root=server2:/export/client2/root ns=:nis
           root=server2:/export/client2/root ns=watson:
           root=server2:/export/client2/root ns=mach:nisplus(255.255.255.0)
```

FILES

/etc/bootparams

SEE ALSO

rpc.bootparamd(1M), **sysidtool**(1M), **nsswitch.conf**(4)

x86 only

rpld(1M)

NOTES

Solaris diskless clients use the identifiers "root", "swap", and "dump" to look up the pathnames for the root filesystem, a swap area, and a dump area, respectively. These are the only identifiers meaningful for SPARC diskless booting clients.

For x86 booting clients, the additional keyword identifiers "numbootfiles," "bootfile," and "bootaddr" are used (see **rpld**(1M)).