

OVMF/UEFI Boot Entries

Contents

[Introduction](#)

[Add a Boot Option](#)

[Short How-To](#)

[Detailed How-To](#)

[References](#)

Introduction

If a VM boots via OVMF (UEFI^[1]), the firmware has to know which bootloader it has to start from the ESP^[2]. When no boot entries exist in the EFIVARS store, it tries to load the fallback `$ESP/EFI/BOOT/BOOTX64.efi` loader. Should that also fail, the VM gets booted into the EFI Shell

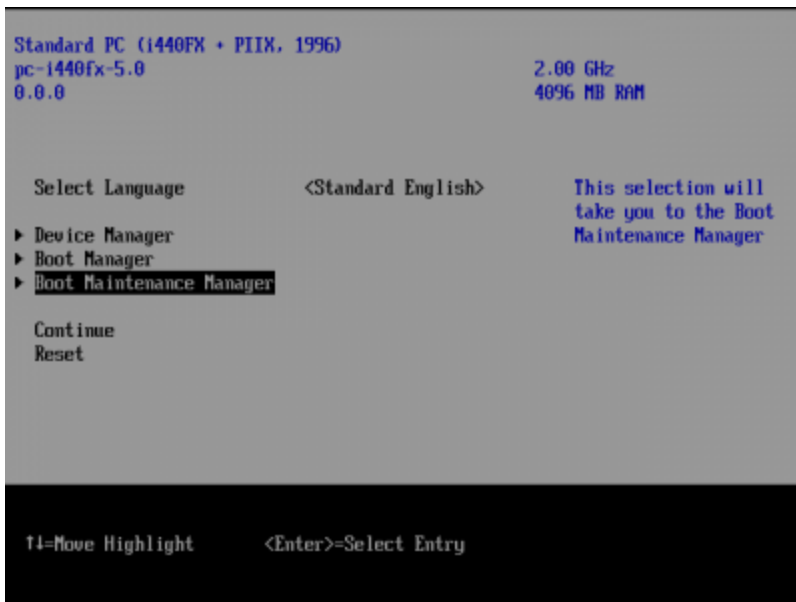
Add a Boot Option

Short How-To

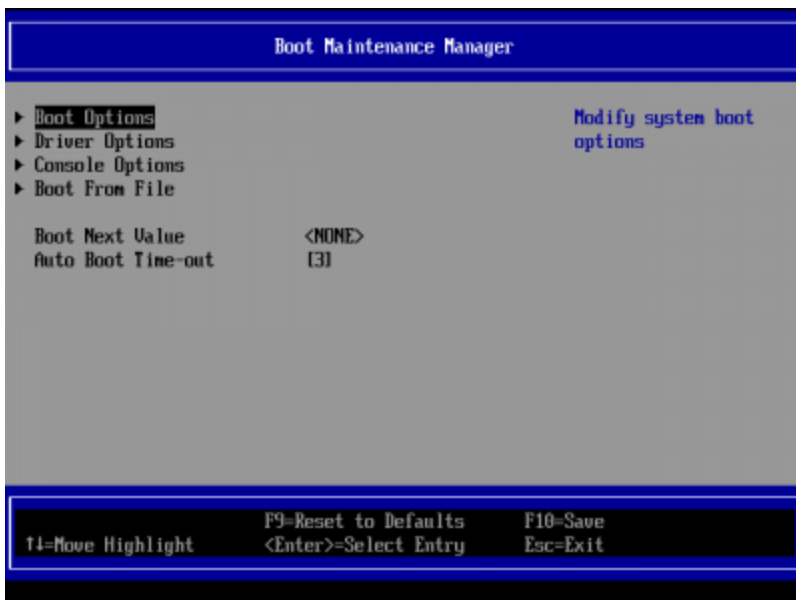
1. Start-up the VM and press ESC to get into the OVMF menu.
2. Then "Boot Maintenance Manager" -> "Boot Options" -> "Add Boot Option" -> choose Disk with the Efi System Partition.
3. Now find the EFI executable, for example for Debian: `EFI/debian/grubx64.efi` or for Fedora: `EFI/fedora/shimx64-fedora.efi`.
4. Name it ("Input the description") and "Commit Change"
5. Use "Change Boot Order" to order the new entry to the top.

Detailed How-To

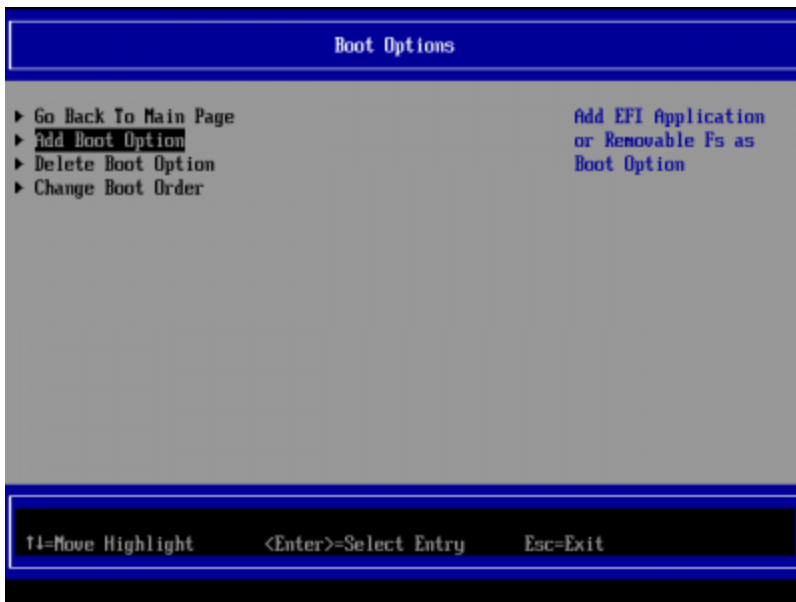
To add an entry of an existing bootloader go into the OVMF Menu by pressing 'ESC' during boot. Then select 'Boot Maintenance Manager':



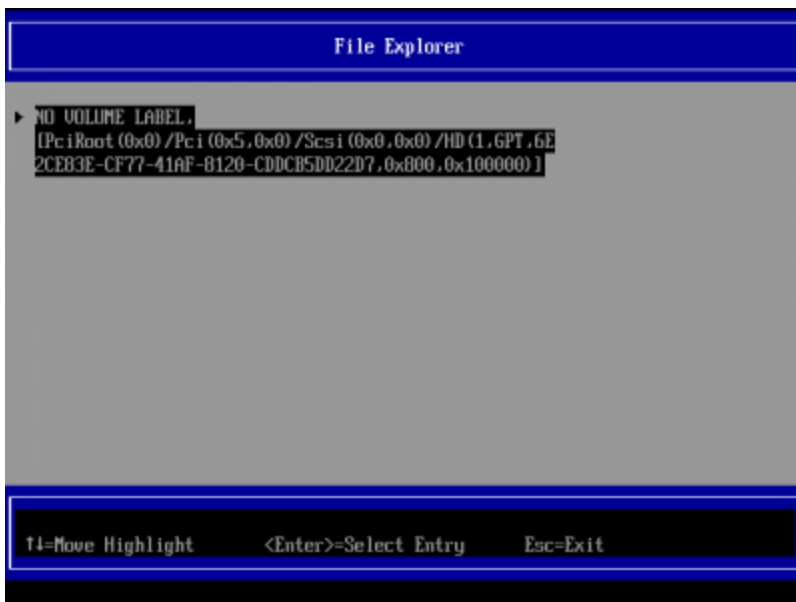
Select 'Boot Options':



Select 'Add Boot Option':



Choose the Hard Drive with the ESP:



Navigate the folder structure to your bootloader (EFI/debian/shimx64.efi in this example)



After that, enter a name and commit:

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Modify Boot Option Description

shinx64.efi

Input the description

Input Optional Data

Commit Changes and Exit

Discard Changes and Exit

ti=Move Highlight

F9=Reset to Defaults

F10=Save

<Enter>=Select Entry

Esc=Exit

Modify Boot Option Description

shinx64.efi

Input the description

Please type in your data

debian_

<Enter>=Complete Entry

Esc=Exit Entry

Modify Boot Option Description

shinx64.efi

Input the description

Input Optional Data

Commit Changes and Exit

Discard Changes and Exit

ti=Move Highlight

F9=Reset to Defaults

F10=Save

<Enter>=Select Entry

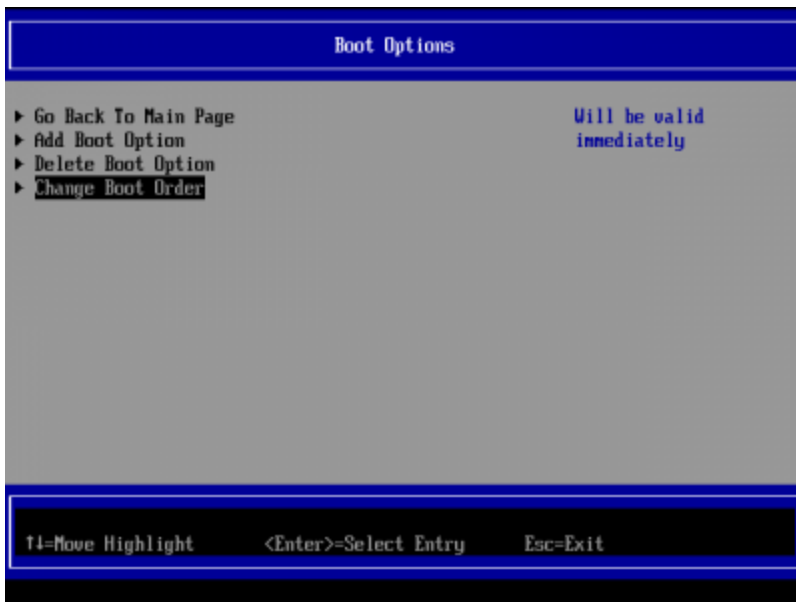
Esc=Exit

Configuration changed

To make it the default boot entry, you now have to change the boot order:

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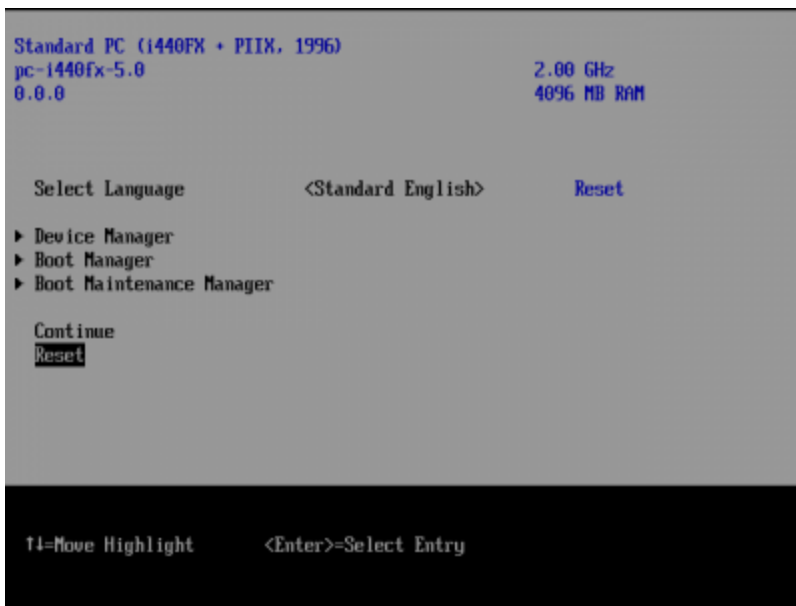
[More information](#)



Press enter, select the boot entry with the arrow keys and move it up and down with '+' and '-' respectively. Then press enter again and commit your changes:



The last step is to reset the VM via OVMF, after that it should boot using the just configured boot entry.



References

1. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Unified_Extensible_Firmware_Interface
 2. EFI System Partition. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/EFI_system_partition
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