How to enter the BooSt superuser mode in the Netbook Pro

If you need to change your keyboard layout setting, recalibrate your touchscreen or want to solve NAND errors like the following:

NAND block 0x55C: ECCBAD, read failed

you need to enter the superuser mode in the Netbook Pro which provides some special commands which are not available in the normal mode. I guess there is a reason for this, because you can cripple your settings and make your Netbook unbootable.

To enter, you first need to reset the system with the tiny reset button next to the Enter key. Then you need to connect a resistor between two pins at the bottom of the PCB. The two pins can be found at the connector which connects to the docking station. (See image.) (Mind that not all Netbooks Pro seem to have this connector. If it hasn't, you need to get access to the PCB below instead.) I tried several values, but something between 33k and 68k seems to be appropriate. To boot into BooSt, press the magic key combi-



nation [Ctrl+Shift+D+Esc]. If the resistor is correctly connected, the text 'BooSt dongle detected' (See right column) should appear. If the left column is shown, you need to switch it off with [Fn+Esc], check the connection and power on with pressing [Esc].

Ξ Normal mode Superuser mode Psion Teklogix netBook2 BooSt. nand0-0 mounted: size = 21136 KB config Configuration command (42272 * 512) Copyright Psion Teklogix Inc. 2002, 2004 debug Display debugging information Command> Starting BooSt... Powering up AC97 CODEC... distest Display test netBookPro boot menu editmem Edit memory Graphical console connected go Jump to boot code or flash module (OS) 1) Run main OS CPU (rev = 0x6) clock 400 MHz i2c I2C Psion Teklogix netBook Pro MLB rev. D (board ID 1) !) Clean start main OS kbd Keyboard test 2) Begin YMODEM load NAND flash: 32 MB (Samsung K9F5616U0), 20 MB reserved load Image file loader Show configuration for OS partition Directory list command 3) ls memtest Test unused memory regions modem Modem test command Audio test RAM: 128 MB 4) BooSt version K295g (0x438CC3C2) 5) Display test Touch test PCon version K295q nand Perform NAND flash operations Boot code image info: size = 232000 BooSt OS for netBook2 pcctest Sycard PCCtest172/CFtest222 interface test 7) RAM test 8) NAND ECC command pcon F) Erase flash file system Build version K295q PCon interface nBkProOS.img image info: size = 20841943 rtc Real Time Clock NetBookPro Windows CE.NET sertest Serial port tests sleep Delay for the specified amount of time Command> K295q BooSt dongle detected. BooSt key combo detected. Boost standby Put the terminal in suspend mode Touch driver calibration commands touch OS load skipped. usb USB device related commands Touch calibration read from EEPROM successful. usbhost USB Host Controller test ver Display BooSt version information nand0-0 mounted: size = 21136 KB (42272 * 512) ymodem Perform a YMODEM transfer > ? Registered console commands: Displays a list of registered commands 2 ac97 AC97 link command ac97drv AC97 driver control adc Capture touch screen ADC samples audio Audio test command Calculate POSIX.2 CRC for a file cksum

Serial connection

In order to get access to your screen output, it is advisable to connect the Netbook Pro with the serial connection to a pc. On windows one may use Hyperterminal (115200 8N1 Hardware flow control), or on linux cu: Install with:

\$sudo apt-get install cu Start cu with:

\$cu -1 /dev/ttyS0 -s 115200

NAND Flash Problems

If someone tried to install Linux on the Netbook Pro, and tried to revert to Windows CE afterwards, both the NAND ECC and Erase flash file system from the normal BooSt option may fail. To erase the NAND flash memory, one must enter the superuser mode, and erase the NAND flash starting at block 18. ERASING YOUR NAND FLASH BELOW BLOCK 18 WILL ERASE BOOST, AND MAKE YOUR NETBOOK PRO UNBOOTABLE! (If someone knows an option to recover even from this, please let me know) Type the following:

nand check
(For Netbook Pro 32 MB:)
nand -ignore erase 18 7e8

(For Netbook Pro 64 MB:) nand -ignore erase 18 fe8

Configuring keyboard layout setting config get Settings of the keyboard layout

config set keyboard

Recalibrating the touchscreen

touch i a

(When everything is set, press the key w to write the new configuration into memory)

More information about commands

Informatoin about commands can be retrieved with the ? command. For example:

config ?

Will provide more information about the config command.