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FreeBSD Find Out all Installed Hard Disk Information

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Q. How do I find out all installed hard disk names under FreeBSD without rebooting the server? How do I use the equivalent of `fdisk -l` in Linux, with FreeBSD to list all hard disks?

A. The easiest way to find out detected hardware information under FreeBSD is go through `/var/run/dmesg.boot` file. This file is usually a snapshot of the buffer contents taken soon after file systems are mounted at startup time. It is not modified till system is rebooted. Just Linux, FreeBSD follows some sort of physical disk naming conventions:

a] IDE Hard disk names starts with **ad** - `/dev/ad0` first IDE hard disk, `/dev/ad1` second hard disk and so on

b] SCSI Hard disk names starts with **da** - `/dev/da*`

c] IDE CDROM/RW/DVD names starts with **acd** - `/dev/acd*`

d] SCSI CDROM/RW/DVD names starts with **cd** - `/dev/cd*`

List all detected hard disk / cdroms

Type the following command, enter:

```
# egrep 'ad[0-9] | cd[0-9]' /var/run/dmesg.boot
```

Output:

```
acd0: DVDROM at ata0-slave UDMA33
ad4: 239372MB at ata2-master SATA150
ad6: 239372MB at ata3-master SATA150
Trying to mount root from ufs:/dev/ad4s1a
```

From above output it is clear that I've following storage installed:

1. **ad4** : My First hard disk connected to ATA channel 2
2. **ad6**: My Second hard disk connected to ATA channel 3
3. **acd0** : My DVD ROM

atacontrol command

The `atacontrol` utility is a control program that provides the user access and control to the FreeBSD ata (IDE / SATA hard disk) subsystem.



WARNING! These examples may crash your computer and loss of data if executed improperly. Please exercise caution when using `atacontrol` command!

The list option can list all hard disk, enter:

```
# atactrol list
```

Output:

```
ATA channel 0:
  Master:      no device present
  Slave:  acd0  ATA/ATAPI revision 7
ATA channel 1:
  Master:      no device present
  Slave:      no device present
```

```
ATA channel 2:
  Master:  ad4   Serial ATA II
  Slave:    no device present
ATA channel 3:
  Master:  ad6   Serial ATA II
  Slave:    no device present
```

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