



Hewlett Packard
Enterprise

Infrastructure Automation with Operating System Deployment

How To Guide for Gen9 and Gen10 UEFI HTTP
Boot and iLO Virtual Media with the Composable
API

Contents

Introduction..... 3

UEFI HTTP Boot with Gen9 and Gen10..... 3

iLO Virtual Media Boot with Gen9 and Gen10..... 3

 Create your Server Profile..... 3

 Obtain an iLO Single-Sign On (SSO) auth token from the HPE OneView API..... 3

 Attach to the iLO REST API (Gen8) or RedFish interface (Gen9 and newer), using the token and set the iLO Virtual Media DVD mount path..... 3

 Optional: Attach to the iLO REST API (Gen8) or RedFish interface (Gen9 and newer), using the token and unmount ISO..... 4

Introduction

With Insight Control Server Provisioning (ICSP) ceasing to support Gen10 and newer, this whitepaper and accompanying GitHub repository, is meant to assist customers and partners with alternate methods for deploying supported operating systems. This whitepaper is not meant to provide guidance on the exact steps on deploying an operating system, but rather on how to boot strap a server into an automation environment or scripted OS install. There are two options, each with different implementations. Each section describes the requirements, and process to booting a server into either a maintenance OS, or OS installation.

UEFI HTTP Boot with Gen9 and Gen10

UEFI HTTP Boot¹ is a feature introduced into UEFI 2.5 spec that its goal is to help OS vendors and Enterprises to replace, or provide an alternative to, PXE in the datacenter. As most customers know, PXE is viewed as either a security risk or does not scale well (TFTP timeouts, multicast issues, etc.). UEFI HTTP Boot aims to address this by utilizing current and more reliable technologies; HTTP/HTTPS (security and load balancing) and TCP (more reliable than UDP).

However, not all Operating Systems support this method. The following table shows what OS installers or mini-init environments are supported. The table will be updated over time as newer Operating Systems that support UEFI HTTP Boot are released and known.

Table 1. UEFI HTTP Boot for OS Installation

OS Vendor	Version
SUSE Linux Enterprise Server (SLES)	12 SP2
WinPE	5.0 or greater

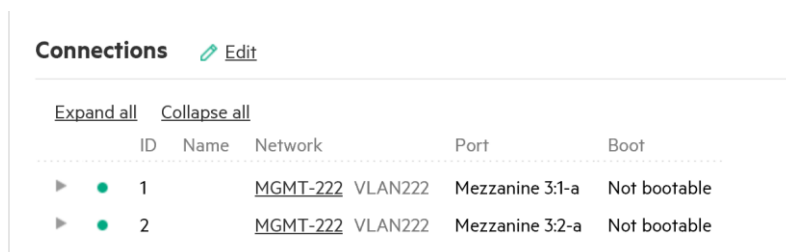
When other OS vendors add support for UEFI HTTP Boot, we will update this document. If you are planning on using Red Hat Enterprise Linux (RHEL), Windows Server, VMware vSphere, SLES 12 or older, or any other HPE Tier 1 supported OS², please skip this section and go to the Gen9 and Gen10 Virtual Media Mount section.

The following table outlines the basic requirements in order to utilize UEFI HTTP Boot.

Table 2. Infrastructure requirements for UEFI HTTP Boot

Prerequisites	
Web Server	HTTP or HTTPS, anonymous authentication
HTTP/HTTPS Loadbalancing	Optional. Can help with HTTP/HTTPS connection balancing.
IPv4 Addressing	Static or DHCP
IPv6 Addressing	Automatic (can utilize SLAAC or DHCPv6) or Static

When defining a Server Profile it is important that for BL and SY environments with Virtual Connect, 1 or more Connections must be assigned that have access to the web server hosting the ISO images.



Connections Edit					
Expand all Collapse all		ID	Name	Network	Port
▶	●	1		MGMT-222 VLAN222	Mezzanine 3:1-a
▶	●	2		MGMT-222 VLAN222	Mezzanine 3:2-a
					Not bootable
					Not bootable

Figure 1. Connections within Server Profile that provide L2 connectivity to web server.

¹ Firmware in the datacenter: Goodbye PXE and IPMI. Welcome HTTP Boot and Redfish.
http://www.uefi.org/sites/default/files/resources/UEFI_Plugfest_May_2015_HTTP_Boot_Redfish_Samer_El-Haj_ver1.2.pdf

² HPE Servers Support & Certification Matrices: <http://h17007.www1.hpe.com/us/en/enterprise/servers/supportmatrix/windows.aspx#WZSAiZ9Eyx>

The System ROM Boot Mode (aka BIOS Boot Mode) must be set to UEFI.

Boot Settings

☒ Manage boot mode

Boot mode

UEFI

▼

PXE boot policy

Auto

▼

☒ Manage boot order

Primary boot device

Hard disk

▼

Figure 2. System ROM boot mode setting.

Finally, UEFI Boot must be configured within the Server Profile BIOS Settings; Boot Options-> Pre-Boot Network Settings. By default DHCPv4 setting is set to Default - Enabled, and IPv6 Config Policy is set to Default - Automatic. Change the DHCPv4 setting to Disabled in order to set a Static IPv4 Address, Subnet Mask, Default Gateway and/or DNS.

Pre-Boot Network Settings

Pre-Boot Network Interface

Default - Auto

▼

Pre-Boot Network Proxy

Default [Set to default](#)

DHCPv4

Disabled

▼

IPv4 Address

192.85.182.244

Default [Set to default](#)

Use this option to specify the pre-boot network IPv4 address. Enter a static IP address using dotted-decimal notation (for example, 127.0.0.1). If DHCP is used (the DHCPv4 option is enabled), this setting is unavailable because the value is supplied automatically.

IPv4 Subnet Mask

255.255.255.128

Default [Set to default](#)

IPv4 Gateway

192.85.182.129

Default [Set to default](#)

IPv4 Primary DNS

0.0.0.0

Default [Set to default](#)

IPv4 Secondary DNS

0.0.0.0

Default [Set to default](#)

IPv6 Config Policy

Default - Automatic

▼

Figure 3. Pre-boot Network Settings for IPv4 Static Address assignment in Server Profile.

Boot from URL 1	<input type="text" value="http://10.44.76.71/osdist/V"/>	Default Set to default
Boot from URL 2	<input type="text"/>	Default Set to default
Boot from URL 3	<input type="text"/>	Default Set to default
Boot from URL 4	<input type="text"/>	Default Set to default

Figure 4. Pre-boot Network Settings for UEFI HTTP Boot URLs.

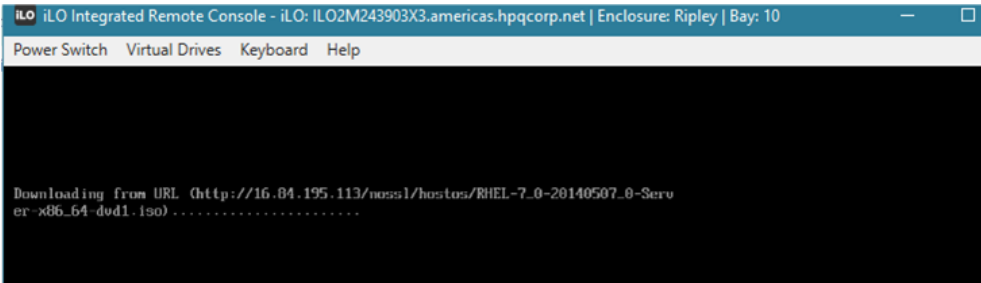


Figure 5. BL460 Gen9 booting RHEL 7 install ISO via UEFI HTTP Boot.

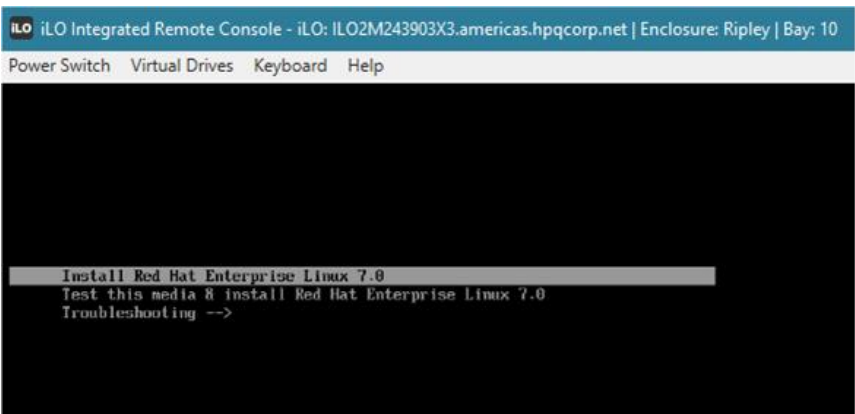


Figure 6. BL460 Gen9 RHEL 7 installation menu.

iLO Virtual Media Boot with Gen9 and Gen10

As discussed in the previous section, not all HPE supported Tier 1 Operating Systems support UEFI HTTP Boot in order to install an Operating System. Using Virtual Media would be a more ubiquitous capability, and supports a larger range of operating systems, as the provided CD/DVD ISO image is directly mounted to the server.

Important

Scripting iLO Virtual Media will require the iLO Advanced license. Any HPE OneView Advanced customer will have an iLO Advanced license installed on their iLO.

Using iLO Virtual Media to provision an OS along with the HPE OneView Server Profile will require a multi-step process. The following flow chart shows the order of operation.



Create your Server Profile.

Server Profiles can be created from a Server Profile Template, with compliance tracking, or new with unique parameters not associated with Server Profile Templates. The following options are available to create a Server Profile resource.

Table 3. Create Server Profile resources

Language	Resource Name
PowerShell	New-HPOVServerProfile
	Wait-HPOVTaskComplete
Python	Server-profile.py
Ruby	server_profile.rb

Obtain an iLO Single-Sign On (SSO) auth token from the HPE OneView API

Next, an iLO SSO auth token needs to be created. The following resources provide methods to generating either an iLO RedFish session object, or the SSO auth token to be provided into the appropriate RedFish SDK.

Table 4. Create iLO RedFish SSO token resources

Language	Resource Name
PowerShell	Get-HPOViloSso
Python	get_ssosessionobject.py
Ruby	get_ssosessionobjectrb

Attach to the iLO REST API (Gen8) or RedFish interface (Gen9 and newer), using the token and set the iLO Virtual Media DVD mount path

Once the iLO RedFish token has been created, the remote ISO needs to be mounted with iLO Virtual Media. The server/compute node should be instructed to boot from the mounted ISO image upon next boot, using the On Time Boot (OTB) method provided by the iLO. The provided scripts will mount the ISO image using the provided relative URL, and then set the OTB value to "CD".

Important

Scripting iLO Virtual Media will require the iLO Advanced license. Any HPE OneView Advanced customer will have an iLO Advanced license installed on their iLO.

Table 5. Mount remote iLO Virtual Media with RedFish resources

Language	Resource Name
PowerShell	Mount-VirtualMedia.ps1
Python	mount_virtualmedia.py
Ruby	mount_virtualmedia.rb

Optional: Attach to the iLO REST API (Gen8) or RedFish interface (Gen9 and newer), using the token and unmount ISO

In typical installations, mounted ISO images, or the DVD/CD drive is autoejected. For those times where a DVD/CD drive eject command cannot be initiated from the automation environment or OS installer, the following scripts will provide the method of unmounting the iLO Virtual Media.

Table 6. Unmount iLO Virtual Media resources

Language	Resource Name
PowerShell	Unmount-VirtualMedia.ps1
Python	unmount_virtualmedia.py
Ruby	unmount_virtualmedia.rb

Resources, contacts, or additional links

Hewlett-Packard GitHub Organization

github.com/HewlettPackard

Hewlett-Packard HPE OneView Python SDK

github.com/HewlettPackard/python-hpOneView

Hewlett-Packard RedFish Python SDK

github.com/HewlettPackard/python-iloREST-library

Hewlett-Packard HPE OneView Ruby SDK

github.com/HewlettPackard/oneview-sdk-ruby

Hewlett-Packard RedFish Ruby SDK

github.com/HewlettPackard/ilo-sdk-ruby

Hewlett-Packard HPE OneView PowerShell Library

powershellgallery.com/packages/HPOneView.310

Hewlett-Packard RedFish PowerShell Library

powershellgallery.com/packages/HPRESTCmdlets

Learn more at

hpe.com/info/oneview

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