Ask Ubuntu is a question and answer site for Ubuntu users and developers. Join them; it only takes a minute:

Here's how it works:

Sign up

Anybody can ask a question

Anybody can answer

The best answers are voted up and rise to the top

How do I add a kernel boot parameter?

I need to add the boot parameter `foo=bar` to my kernel. How can I do this once for testing, and permanently if testing was a success?

`kernel`   `grub2`

edited Jan 20 '13 at 18:06
Jorge Castro
30.5k ● 100 ● 414 ● 608

asked Dec 30 '10 at 22:51
htorque
43.2k ● 29 ● 166 ● 207

3 Answers

To temporarily add a boot parameter to a kernel:

1. Start your system and wait for the GRUB menu to show (if you don't see a GRUB menu, press and hold the left `Shift` key right after starting the system).
2. Now highlight the kernel you want to use, and press the `e` key. You should be able to see and edit the commands associated with the highlighted kernel.
3. Go down to the line starting with `linux` and add your parameter `foo=bar` to its end.
4. Now press `Ctrl` + `x` to boot.

To make this change permanent:

1. From a terminal (or after pressing `Alt` + `F2`) run:

   ```
   gksudo gedit /etc/default/grub
   ```

   (or use `sudo nano` if `gksudo` or `gedit` are not available) and enter your password.
2. Find the line starting with `GRUB_CMDLINE_LINUX_DEFAULT` and append `foo=bar` to its end. For example:

   ```
   GRUB_CMDLINE_LINUX_DEFAULT="quiet splash foo=bar"
   ```

   Save the file and close the editor.
3. Finally, start a terminal and run:

   ```
   sudo update-grub
   ```

   to update GRUB's configuration file (you probably need to enter your password).

On the next reboot, the kernel should be started with the boot parameter. To permanently remove it, simply remove the parameter from `GRUB_CMDLINE_LINUX_DEFAULT` and run `sudo update-grub` again.

To verify your changes, you can see exactly what parameters your kernel booted with by executing `cat /proc/cmdline`.

Wiki Page:

- https://help.ubuntu.com/community/BootOptions

edited Jan 4 at 15:16
Zanna
41.8k ● 12 ● 92 ● 200

answered Dec 30 '10 at 22:51
htorque
43.2k ● 29 ● 166 ● 207

3   FYI to test this run `cat /proc/cmdline` – Avindra Goolcharan Aug 3 '16 at 15:13

To add any kernel option:

- **for a liveCD session:** follow these steps
- **for an Existing Installation:** use Boot-Repair's `Add a kernel option` or `Edit GRUB configuration file` options.
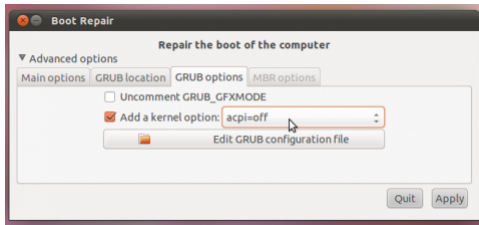
See also this documentation.
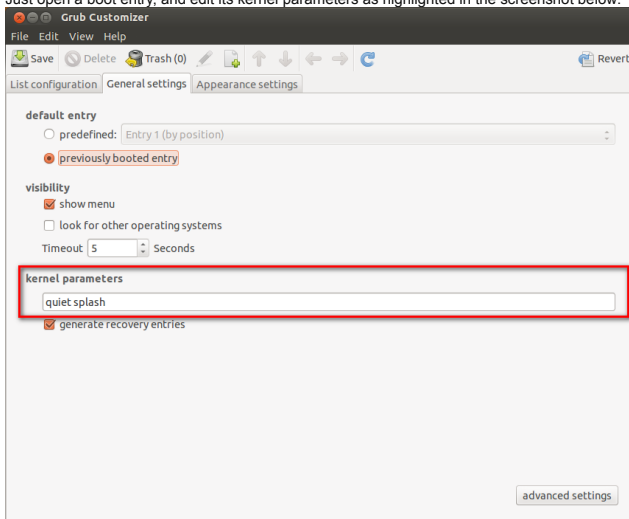
Alternatively, you may also use the handy grub-crustomizer:

```
sudo add-apt-repository ppa:danielrichter2007/grub-customizer
sudo apt-get update
sudo apt-get install grub-customizer

gksu grub-customizer &
```

Just open a boot entry, and edit its kernel parameters as highlighted in the screenshot below: