

An example preconfiguration file that you can use as basis for your own preconfiguration file is available from `./example-preseed.txt`. This file is based on the configuration fragments included in this appendix.

## B.2.1. Loading the preconfiguration file

If you are using `initrd` preseeding, you only have to make sure a file named `preseed.cfg` is included in the root directory of the `initrd`. The installer will automatically check if this file is present and load it.

For the other preseeding methods you need to tell the installer what file to use when you boot it. This is normally done by passing the kernel a boot parameter, either manually at boot time or by editing the bootloader configuration file

If you do specify the preconfiguration file in the bootloader configuration, you might change the configuration so you don't need to hit enter to boot the installer. For `syslinux` this means setting the timeout to 1 in `syslinux.cfg`.

To make sure the installer gets the right preconfiguration file, you can optionally specify a checksum for the file. Currently this needs to be a `md5sum`, and if specified it must match the preconfiguration file or the installer will refuse to use it.

Boot parameters to specify:

- if you're netbooting:  
    `preseed/url=http://host/path/to/preseed.cfg`  
    `preseed/url/checksum=5da499872becccfeda2c4872f9171c3d`
- or  
    `preseed/url=ftp://host/path/to/preseed.cfg`  
    `preseed/url/checksum=5da499872becccfeda2c4872f9171c3d`
- or  
    `preseed/url=tftp://host/path/to/preseed.cfg`  
    `preseed/url/checksum=5da499872becccfeda2c4872f9171c3d`
  
- if you're booting a remastered CD or image:  
    `preseed/file=/cdrom/preseed.cfg`  
    `preseed/file/checksum=5da499872becccfeda2c4872f9171c3d`
  
- if you're installing from USB media (put the preconfiguration file in the `toplevel` directory of the USB stick):  
    `preseed/file=/hd-media/preseed.cfg`  
    `preseed/file/checksum=5da499872becccfeda2c4872f9171c3d`

Note that `preseed/url` can be shortened to just `url`, `preseed/file` to just `file` and `preseed/file/checksum` to just `preseed-md5` when they are passed as boot parameters.

## B.2.2. Using boot parameters to preseed questions

If a preconfiguration file cannot be used to preseed some steps, the install can still be fully automated, since you can pass preseed values on the command line when booting the installer.

Boot parameters can also be used if you do not really want to use preseeding, but just want to provide an answer for a specific question. Some examples where this can be useful are documented elsewhere in this manual.