

Linux Mint

from freedom came elegance

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How to add a kernel parameter

by **rene** » Sat May 22, 2021 6:21 am

“

Sometimes and/or for specific hardware we need to tell the Linux kernel to treat it specially through the use of a kernel parameter. Posted here as a tutorial in order to be able to quickly refer to it from posts that need the advise given.

1. Temporarily add a kernel parameter

Kernel parameters tend to be not needed generally, and adding one you often do as little other than testing. In this case it's best to just add it temporarily for one boot directly from the Grub menu, the black OS-picker menu you get when starting the computer. If you dual-boot with e.g. Windows and have not specifically adjusted things you should get said menu on startup automatically; if you single-boot you may not without on a UEFI system tapping the Esc key at the point that the boot transitions from BIOS to disk or on a Legacy system holding down Left-Shift at that time.

Once in the Grub menu you highlight the relevant Linux boot entry, use `e` to edit it and add the suggested kernel parameter on the "linux" line, instead of or before or after where it normally says "quiet splash". An example when the suggested kernel parameter is `i915.enable_fbc=0` would be

CODE: SELECT ALL

```
linux    /boot/vmlinuz-5.8.0-53-generic root=UUID=12345678-1234-5678-9abc-123456789abc ro quiet s
```

Then press F10 to boot. Once booted you can verify from `cat /proc/cmdline` that indeed the parameter was specified.

2. "Permanently" add a kernel parameter

Permanently in the sense of not needing to provide it manually per boot: it is otherwise of course as easily undone as done. For this you add the parameter to `/etc/default/grub` with e.g.

CODE: SELECT ALL

```
sudo nano /etc/default/grub
```

and add to the GRUB_CMDLINE_LINUX_DEFAULT string, again instead of or before or after where it normally says "quiet splash". The example when the suggested kernel parameter is `i915.enable_fbc=0` is

CODE: SELECT ALL

```
GRUB_CMDLINE_LINUX_DEFAULT="quiet splash i915.enable_fbc=0"
```

Save the file, run `sudo update-grub` and reboot. You can again once booted verify from `cat /proc/cmdline` that the parameter was specified.

Last edited by **karlchen** on Thu Dec 30, 2021 2:57 pm, edited 1 time in total.

Reason: Corrected the last occurrence to read: `GRUB_CMDLINE_LINUX_DEFAULT="quiet splash i915.enable_fbc=0"` (it was `i915_enable_fbc=0`. Note `_` vs `.`)

rene
Level 20
📊
Posts: 11373
Joined: Sun Mar 27, 2016 6:58 pm


Re: How to add a kernel parameter

by **Termy** » Tue Jun 22, 2021 8:32 pm

“

For clarification, I'd change all instances of "kernel parameter" to "kernel boot parameter", to avoid ambiguity, because they are notably different, which led to me viewing this thread thinking it was something else.

I'm also [Terminalforlife](#) on GitHub.



Termy
Level 10
📊
Posts: 3418
Joined: Mon Sep 04, 2017 8:49 pm
Location: UK
Contact: 💬

Re: How to add a kernel parameter

cc |

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https://forums.linuxmint.com/viewtopic.php?t=349669

1/2

Sat May 22, 2021 6:21 am

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Posts: 20847
Joined: Sun Jul 26, 2020 6:15 pm
Location: USA

One recent poster let me know they ran into a problem because they typed exactly what was on the GRUB_CMDLINE_LINUX_DEFAULT line. There is an `_` instead of a `.` between i915 and enable. (Which I never before noticed. 😊) They asked if it could be corrected. I let them know I would pass along the request which is in the second half of [this post](#).



Moderator @ Linux Mint

A woman typing on a laptop with LM20.3 Cinnamon.

“

rene
Level 20

11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 ✓

Posts: 11373
Joined: Sun Mar 27, 2016 6:58 pm

“

Ignoramus

✓

I'm not techie at all and brand new to Linux and I got a bit confused about the making a parameter permanent thing, so is it OK if I add a link to the question I posted about it, and, of course, the answers that helped clarify what I had to do? How do I install a kernel parameter permanently? (viewtopic.php?f=46&t=367103&p=2133435#p2133435)

Posts: 30
Joined: Fri Nov 26, 2021 4:43 pm



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