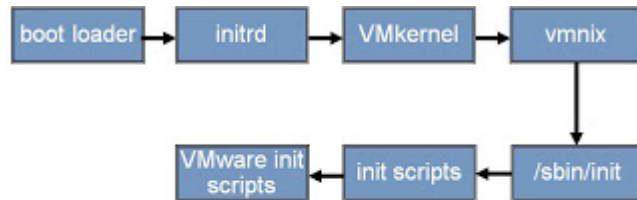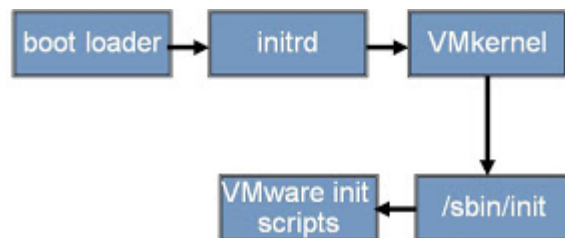# ESX Server 3.0.x/3.5/3i Boot Process

ESX Server 3.0.x/3.5 Boot Process

1. Boot loader in MBR points to the boot device
2. Grub.conf lists the boot menu options.
3. Selected menu provides:

- Location of root partition. Uses UUID instead of device

  name (e.g. /dev/sda)
- RAM Disk file name relative to /boot location

ESX Server 3i Boot Process

- Boot loader in MBR points to the boot device
- initrd (initial Ram disk) is loaded

ESXi Boot Sequence

ESXi firmware boot starts from grub screen

1. Hypervisor loads necessary drivers
2. Hypervisor runs config scripts
3. Hypervisor starts daemons (services)
4. Boot process ends when DCUI screen is loaded

- Alt+F2 : DCUI (Default)
- Alt+F1: inactive console
- Alt+F11 : Summary information (version, server, CPU, memory)
- Alt+F12 : vmkernel log