|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Bochs User Manual | | |
| [Prev](http://docs.google.com/keymap.html) |  | [Next](http://docs.google.com/search-order.html) |

Chapter 5. Using Bochs

After starting Bochs either from the command prompt or the OS shell, the following steps are done before the simulation is running.

1. parse [command line](http://docs.google.com/using-bochs.html#COMMANDLINE) (except bochsrc options)
2. load selected config file ([bochsrc](http://docs.google.com/bochsrc.html)) or [search](http://docs.google.com/search-order.html) for the default one
3. parse remaining command line options ([bochsrc](http://docs.google.com/bochsrc.html) syntax)
4. initialize configuration interface
5. enter [start menu](http://docs.google.com/textconfig.html) / dialog (unless quick start mode is enabled)
6. initialize all parts of the simulator
7. enter [debugger](http://docs.google.com/internal-debugger.html) prompt / dialog (if present)
8. enter the simulation loop

During simulation, Bochs usually generates more or less log output. By default it is sent to the console, otherwise to the specified [log file](http://docs.google.com/bochsrc.html#BOCHSOPT-LOG). The amount of output can be controlled with the [log options](http://docs.google.com/bochsrc.html#BOCHSOPT-DEBUG-INFO-ERROR-PANIC) in bochsrc, the start menu and the runtime configuration.

Under certain conditions Bochs can cause a [panic](http://docs.google.com/common-problems.html#LOGEVENT-PANIC) and usually asks the user what to do. If such a panic happens during startup, it is mostly a configuration or permission problem and we recommend to quit Bochs and to review the bochsrc options used.

To quit the simulation, the "power" button in the Bochs [headerbar](http://docs.google.com/textconfig.html#HEADERBAR) should be used, unless the guest OS has the capability to turn off the computer (APM or ACPI).

If a Bochs runtime issue cannot be fixed by configuration changes and it has not yet been reported in the [bochs-developers mailing list](http://docs.google.com/mailinglist.html#BOCHS-DEVELOPERS) or the SF trackers for Bochs, it should be reported in the mailing list or the [SF bug tracker](http://docs.google.com/feedback-support.html#SF-TRACKERS) for the Bochs project.

5.1. Command line arguments

The following table shows the arguments that can be used on the command line. For other arguments, see section [bochsrc](http://docs.google.com/bochsrc.html).

**Table 5-1. command line arguments**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Argument | Description |
| -q | quick start (skip configuration interface) |
| -f *filename* | specify configuration file |
| -log *filename* | specify Bochs log file |
| -dbglog *filename* | specify Bochs internal debugger log file |
| -n | don't try to load a configuration file |
| -r *path* | specify path for restoring state |
| -noconsole | disable console window (Windows only) |
| --help | display help message and exit |
| --help features | display available features / devices and exit |
| --help cpu | display supported CPU models and exit (CPU level > 4 only) |

These arguments are handled directly after starting Bochs. The next step is to load a default or specified configuration file (unless disabled with -n). Then the rest of the command line (bochsrc options) is parsed. This is done after reading the configuration file so that the command line arguments can override the settings from the file.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| [Prev](http://docs.google.com/keymap.html) | [Home](http://docs.google.com/index.html) | [Next](http://docs.google.com/search-order.html) |
| How to write your own keymap table |  | Search order for the configuration file |