|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Bochs User Manual | | |
| [Prev](http://docs.google.com/harddisk-modes.html) | Chapter 8. Tips and Techniques | [Next](http://docs.google.com/guests.html) |

8.21. Using the bximage tool

Bximage is an easy to use console based tool for creating, converting and resizing disk images, particularly for use with Bochs. It also supports committing redolog files to their base images. It is completely interactive if no command line arguments are used. It can be switched to a non-interactive mode if all required parameters are given in the command line.

When you run bximage without one of the following options, it will appear in interactive mode and ask for all required parameters to manipulate an image.

Usage: bximage [options] [filename1] [filename2]  
  
Supported options:  
 -mode=... operation mode (create, convert, resize, commit, info)  
 -fd=... create: floppy image with size code  
 -hd=... create/resize: hard disk image with size in megabytes (M)  
 or gigabytes (G)  
 -imgmode=... create/convert: hard disk image mode  
 -b convert/resize: create a backup of the source image  
 commit: create backups of the base image and redolog file  
 -q quiet mode (don't prompt for user input)  
 --help display this help and exit  
  
Other arguments:  
 filename1 create: new image file  
 convert/resize: source image file  
 commit: base image file  
 filename2 convert/resize: destination image file  
 commit: redolog (journal) file

**Table 8-6. Bximage: supported disk images modes (formats)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Mode | Create / Resize / Convert target | Convert source / Commit base |
| flat | Yes | Yes |
| concat | Create only | Convert source only |
| dll | No | Convert source only |
| sparse | Yes | Yes |
| vmware3 | No | Yes |
| vmware4 | Yes | Yes |
| growing | Yes | Yes |
| vpc | Yes | Yes |

Disk image mode autodetection does not work for the modes *concat* and *dll*. To use those images as convert source, you have to add a prefix ("concat:" or "dll:") to the image path.

8.21.1. Create image

This function can be used to create several disk image formats for the use with Bochs. See the table above for supported formats (modes). For an example of the usage, refer to [Section 8.2](http://docs.google.com/diskimagehowto.html).

8.21.2. Convert image

With this function a disk image can be converted from one mode (format) to another. The type of the source image is auto-detected. For the target format it supports the same disk image modes as the create function. If the name of the new image file is not specified or identical to the source one and you have enabled the backup switch, a backup of the source file will be created with it's original name plus the suffix ".orig".

8.21.3. Resize image

This function can be used to increase the virtual disk size of an image. It supports the same disk image modes as the create function. Making a disk image smaller is not supported, since it may damage the disk and data will be lost. If the name of the new image file is not specified or identical to the source one and you have enabled the backup switch, a backup of the source file will be created with it's original name plus the suffix ".orig".

8.21.4. Commit 'undoable' redolog to base image

The type of the base image is auto-detected. The name of the redolog file only needs to be specified if it is not based on the base image. If you have enabled the backup switch, backups of the original base and redolog files will still be created with their original name plus the suffix ".orig".

8.21.5. Disk image info

This function can be used to determine the disk image format, geometry and size. Note that Bochs can only detect the formats growing, sparse, vmware3, vmware4 and vpc correctly. Other images with a file size multiple of 512 are treated as flat ones. If the image doesn't support returning the geometry, the cylinders are calculated based on 16 heads and 63 sectors per track.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| [Prev](http://docs.google.com/harddisk-modes.html) | [Home](http://docs.google.com/index.html) | [Next](http://docs.google.com/guests.html) |
| Disk Image Modes | [Up](http://docs.google.com/howto.html) | Guest operating systems |