



Tech Info Library

A/UX 3.0: scn_open request for write Error & Wrkaround (6/96)

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TOPIC -----

I recently attempted to launch A/UX 3.0, the boot process halted with the screen displaying, in the upper left hand corner, `scn_open : request for write`. What happened? How I can get A/UX to launch properly?

DISCUSSION -----

We searched for the "`scn_open : request for write`" error message, and this bug was reported in an A/UX bug report. Here is the description of this bug and workaround:

After running `newconfig/autoconfig` and moving the root disk to another machine, the error message "`scn_open: write failed`" may occur, and the toolbox will not startup.

The problem is that if "`launch`" detects that `autoconfig` needs to run, it will boot `/newunix` instead of `/unix`. `/newunix`'s major device numbers in this case no longer match the major device numbers of the root file system. This causes the toolbox "`startmac -o minimal...`" to bail as the major number for the `uinter` driver doesn't match the entry position in the device switch table. Instead, it now matches the `scanners` entry point, and `scn_open()` is being called instead of `ui_open()`!

The correct solution is to hard-code the major device numbers within the `master.d` files, but as this solution is not viable at this time, a quicker hack is to have "`launch`" from Startup set the verbose flag "`-v`" when it detects that it must do an `autoconfig`. This is very simple, and will fix most cases. There may be cases where other devices have "moved" with respect to `/unix` vs. `/newunix`, which may be catastrophic, but not sure at this point.

Other scenario has also been found to produce the same problem, like `Ctrl C` out of `newconfig` debugger after asking for IP address information. The workaround to this is to run "`launch`" from A/UX Startup with the verbose "`-v`" flag.

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28 Jun 1996 - Corrected wording in article.

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