Net Booting/Installing Vintage Computers from a Raspberry Pi

Stephen A. Edwards

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Unix = Kernel + Filesystem
Ubuntu on a Raspberry Pi

Netbooting a SPARCclassic
  Fixing the RTC Battery
  RARP       IP address
  TFTP       second stage bootloader
  Bootparamd root, swap filenames
  Root Filesystem
  NFS        kernel, root filesystem, swap

Netinstallling an SGI O2
  BOOTP       IP address
  TFTP        second stage bootloader
  RSH         install media
  Installation Media
  Partition
  Install

Conclusions
Traditional Unix Bootstrap Process

First-stage bootloader in ROM loads and executes the

Second-stage bootloader from disk loads and executes the

Kernel on disk, mounts root (/) filesystem and runs init
Our Network Server: The Raspberry Pi

$5 – $35 +
SD Card + USB Power Supply

Raspberry Pi 3 B:
1.2 GHz BCM2837 64-bit ARM,
1 GB DDR2, WiFi,
100Base-T Ethernet

Plenty of OSes, e.g., Raspbian

I’m using Ubuntu Server 18.04 because Raspbian’s NFS server wasn’t compatible

Micro Center sells them
Network manager and file server with a 32 GB micro SD

Download (420 MB)

ubuntu-18.04.2-preinstalled-server-arm64+raspi3.img.xz

from

https://www.ubuntu.com/download/iot/raspberry-pi-2-3

Flash using your workstation:

```
# xzcat ubuntu-18.04.2*.img.xz | \ 
  sudo dd of=/dev/sdd bs=4M conv=fsync
```

“conv=fsync” makes it write blocks as it goes
Initial configuration of the Pi

Easiest to boot with HDMI and a USB keyboard
Login in with ubuntu/ubuntu; change password
Connect the Internet: easiest with Ethernet; WiFi needs SSID
Update everything

```
# apt update
# apt upgrade -y
```

Change /etc/hostname

```
piserver
```
Network configuration with Netplan

Change /etc/netplan/50-cloud-init.yaml; adjust SSID/password

```yaml
network:
  version: 2
  renderer: networkd
  ethernets:
    eth0:
      dhcp4: no
      addresses: [192.168.1.1/24]
  wifis:
    wlan0:
      dhcp4: yes
      optional: true
      access-points:
        "FBI Surveillance Van":
          password: "xyzzy"

# netplan --debug apply
```
Our First Opponent: Sun SPARCClassic “Lunchbox”

Sun Microsystems, 1992

50 MHz microSPARC processor (32-bit)

72-pin 60 ns SIMMs

50-pin single-ended fast-narrow SCSI

10Base-T Ethernet + AUI

OpenBoot ROM (FORTH)

Cgthree video: $1150 \times 900$ 8-bpp, 13W3 connector

Some VGA monitors can sync to it

We’re going to run this diskless from the Pi
Repairing the M48T59Y

Every old Sun has this problem:

ST M48T59Y-70PC1U “Timekeeper SRAM”

Internal lithium battery dies after 20 years (but doesn’t leak)

Dremel + CR2032 socket + soldering-iron
Re-initializing the NVRAM

Once replaced, reset the NVRAM contents, e.g., Ethernet address and checksum. At the ok (OpenBoot) prompt:

```
1 0 mkp
real-machine-type 1 mkp
  8 2 mkp 0 3 mkp 20 4 mkp de 5 mkp
    ad 6 mkp cc 7 mkp
  0 8 mkp 0 9 mkp 0 a mkp 0 b mkp
de c mkp ad d mkp cc e mkp
0 f 0 do i idprom@ xor loop f mkp
```

Back in business:

```
ok banner

SPARCclassic, Keyboard Present
ROM Rev. 2.9, 96 MB memory installed, Serial #14593484.
Ethernet address 8:0:20:de:ad:cc, Host ID: 80deadcc.

ok
```
SPARCClassic Operating Systems

SunOS 1.0 – 4.1.4 (1983–1994) was Sun’s BSD-based operating system. Sun switched to the System-V-derived Solaris (“SunOS 5.x”) in 1992. The SPARCClassic runs both.

Unhelpfully, SunOS 4.1.4 was rebranded “Solaris 1.1.2”

Download (39M)

Sun Solaris 1.1.2 – SunOS 4.1.4 [Sun SPARC].7z

from

https://winworldpc.com/product/sun-solaris/1x

Unpack and mount on the Pi

```bash
# apt install -y p7zip
# mkdir /mnt/cdrom
# 7zr e Sun*1.1.2*7z */*.iso
# mount -o loop Solaris1_1_2.iso /mnt/cdrom
```
Reverse Address Resolution Protocol — RARP

Gives the Sun its IP address 192.168.1.10

```
# apt install -y rarpd
```

Add the SPARCClassic’s MAC address to /etc/ethers

```
08:00:20:DE:AD:CC sparcclassic
```

Add hostnames to /etc/hosts

```
192.168.1.1  piserver
192.168.1.10  sparcclassic
```

Respond to RARP requests on eth0 in /etc/default/rarpd

```
OPTS="-v -e eth0"
```

Restart the RARP server

```
# service rarpd restart
```
Trivial File Transfer Protocol — TFTP

Insecure file transfer protocol designed for bootstrapping

# apt install -y tftpd-hpa

Edit /etc/default/tftpd-hpa

TFTP_USERNAME="tftp"
TFTP_DIRECTORY="/tftpboot"
TFTP_ADDRESS=":69"
TFTP_OPTIONS="--address 192.168.1.1 --secure --verbose"

Create the TFTP root directory and restart

# mkdir /tftpboot
# service tftpd-hpa restart
The Sun Second-Stage Bootloader

Once it has its IP address, the Sun loads the second-stage bootloader via TFTP

Filename: IP address in hex + architecture name

192.168.1.10
C0A8010A.SUN4M ← requested filename

Copy the (102K) bootloader from archive on install CD:

```bash
# cd
# tar xf \\
/mnt/cdrom/export/exec/kvm/sun4m_sunos_4_1_4/kvm \ 
./stand/boot.sun4m
# cp stand/boot.sun4m /tftpboot/C0A8010A.SUN4M
```
Bootparamd

Sun’s RPC-based protocol for providing kernel command-line parameters; second-stage bootloader calls it

# apt install -y bootparamd

Add name of root directory and swap file to /etc/bootparams

sparcclassic \\
  root=piserver:/export/sunos/sparcclassic/root/ \\
  swap=piserver:/export/sunos/sparcclassic/swap

# service bootparamd restart

Create empty root directory and empty swapfile:

# mkdir -p /export/sunos/sparcclassic/root
# dd if=/dev/zero \\
  of=/export/sunos/sparcclassic/swap \\
  bs=1 count=1 seek=64M
Populate the root directory on the Pi

cd /export/sunos/sparcclassic/root
tar xf /mnt/cdrom/export/exec/proto_root_sunos_4_1_4
mkdir -p usr/kvm
cd usr/kvm
tar xf /mnt/cdrom/export/exec/kvm/sun4m_sunos_4_1_4/kvm
tar xf /mnt/cdrom/export/exec/kvm/sun4m_sunos_4_1_4/sys
cd ..
for f in /mnt/cdrom/export/exec/sun4_sunos_4_1_4/* \
   /mnt/cdrom/export/share/sunos_4_1_4/* ; do \
   tar xf $f ; done

# Link the kernel image to the root directory
cd /export/sunos/sparcclassic/root
ln -s usr/kvm/stand/vmunix

# Link init
cd /export/sunos/sparcclassic/root/sbin
ln -s ..:/usr/etc/init
Populate root directory continued...

# Populate /dev directory
cd /export/sunos/sparcclassic/root/dev
./MAKEDEV std
./MAKEDEV pty
./MAKEDEV win0

# Disable NIS/YP to avoid hang on boot
cd /export/sunos/sparcclassic/root/var
mv yp yp-disabled

Tell the kernel about / and /usr in
/export/sunos/sparcclassic/root/etc/fstab

piserver:/export/sunos/sparcclassic/root / nfs rw 0 0
piserver:/export/sunos/sparcclassic/root/usr /usr nfs rw 0 0

IP addresses /export/sunos/sparcclassic/root/etc/hosts

192.168.1.1 piserver
192.168.1.10 sparcclassic
Network File System – NFS

Sun’s still-relevant protocol for mounting remote filesystems. Cf. Microsoft’s SMB

```
# apt install -y nfs-kernel-server
```

Place names of directories to serve in /etc/exports

```
/export/sunos
  sparcclassic(rw,no_root_squash,no_subtree_check)
```

Enable the archaic NFS v2 in /etc/default/nfs-kernel-server

```
RPCNFSDOPTS="--nfs-version 2,3,4 --debug --syslog"
```

```
# service nfs-kernel-server restart
```
Probing Memory Bank #1 32 Megabytes input and output.
Probing Memory Bank #2 Nothing there
Probing Memory Bank #3 32 Megabytes
Probing /iommu@0,10000000/sbus@0,10001000 at 4,0 espdma esp sd st audio SUNW,bp
p ledma le
Probing /iommu@0,10000000/sbus@0,10001000 at 0,0 Nothing there
Probing /iommu@0,10000000/sbus@0,10001000 at 1,0 Nothing there
Probing /iommu@0,10000000/sbus@0,10001000 at 2,0 Nothing there
Probing /iommu@0,10000000/sbus@0,10001000 at 3,0 cgthree

SPARCclassic, Keyboard Present
ROM Rev. 2.9, 96 MB memory installed, Serial #14593484.
Ethernet address 8:0:20:de:ad:cc, Host ID: 80deadcc.

Rebooting with command:
Boot device: /iommu/sbus/ledma@4,8400010/le@4,8c00000 File and args:
Timeout waiting for ARP/RARP packet
Automatic network cable selection succeeded : Using TP Ethernet Interface
Timeout waiting for ARP/RARP packet
1d400
Lost Carrier (transceiver cable problem?)
Lost Carrier (transceiver cable problem?)
Automatic network cable selection succeeded : Using TP Ethernet Interface

Requesting Internet address for 8:0:20:de:ad:cc
Using IP Address 192.168.1.10 = C0A8010A
hostname: sparcclassic
domainname: (none)
server name 'piserver'
root path name '/export/sunos/sparcclassic/root/'
root on piserver:/export/sunos/sparcclassic/root/ fstype nfs
Boot: vmunix
Size: 1548288
domainname: (none)
server name 'piserver'
root pathname '/export/sunos/sparcclassic/root/
root on piserver:/export/sunos/sparcclassic/root/ ftype nfs
Boot: vmunix
Size: 1548238+463688+225704 bytes
PAC ENABLED
Copyright (c) 1983-1993, Sun Microsystems, Inc.
cpu = SUNW,SPARCclassic
mod0 = TI,IMS390S10 (mid = 0)
mem = 97972K (0x5fad000)
avail mem = 93200384
entering uniprocessor mode
Ethernet address = 8:0:20:de:ad:cc
espdma0 at SBus slot 4 0x8400000
esp0 at SBus slot 4 0x8800000 pri 4 (onboard)
esp0: Warning- no devices found for this SCSI bus
audio0 at SBus slot 4 0x1300000 pri 13 (sbus level 7)
SUNW,bpp0 at SBus slot 4 0xc800000 pri 3 (sbus level 2)
ledma0 at SBus slot 4 0x8400010
le0 at SBus slot 4 0x8c00000 pri 6 (onboard)
cgthree0 at SBus slot 3 0x0 pri 9 (sbus level 5)
zs0 at SBus slot 4 0x1100000 pri 12 (onboard)
zs1 at SBus slot 4 0x1000000 pri 12 (onboard)
SUNW,fdtwo0 at SBus slot 4 0x1400000 pri 11 (onboard)
hostname: sparcclassic
domainname: (none)
root on piserver:/export/sunos/sparcclassic/root/ ftype nfs
swap on piserver:/export/sunos/sparcclassic/swap ftype nfs size 65536K
dump on piserver:/export/sunos/sparcclassic/swap ftype nfs size 65524K
ifconfig: sparcclassic: bad address
checking filesystems
hostname: sparcclassic
domainname: (none)
root on piserver:/export/sunos/sparcclassic/root/ fstype nfs
swap on piserver:/export/sunos/sparcclassic/swap fstype nfs size 65536K
dump on piserver:/export/sunos/sparcclassic/swap fstype nfs size 65524K
ifconfig: sparcclassic: bad address
checking filesystems
Automatic reboot in progress...
Tue Apr 30 20:04:39 GMT 2019
cHECKING quotas: done.
starting rpc port mapper.
starting RPC key server.
network interface configuration:
le0: flags=63<UP,BROADCAST,NOTRAILERS,RUNNING>
     inet 192.168.1.10 netmask fffffffe00 broadcast 192.168.1.0
     ether 8:0:20:de:ad:cc
lo0: flags=49<UP,LOOPBACK,RUNNING>
     inet 127.0.0.1 netmask ff000000
rdate piserver
rdate: connect: Connection refused
mount -vat nfs
mount: piserver:/export/sunos/sparcclassic/root/usr already mounted
starting additional services: biod.
starting system logger
starting local daemons: auditd sendmail statd lockd.
link-editor directory cache
preserving editor files
Apr 30 20:04:52 sparcclassic automount[91]: Can't get my address
clearing /tmp
standard daemons: update cron uucp.
starting network daemons: inetc printer.
Tue Apr 30 20:04:58 GMT 2019

sparcclassic login: 1
RARP provides IP address:

```
rarpd[25086]: RARP request from 08:00:20:de:ad:cc on eth0
rarpd[25086]: RARP response to 08:00:20:de:ad:cc 192.168.1.10 on eth0
```

TFTP serves the second-stage bootloader

```
in.tftpd[22184]: RRQ from 192.168.1.10 filename C0A8010A.SUN4M
```

Bootparamd provides location of root filesystem

```
rpc.bootparamd: whoami got question for 192.168.1.10
rpc.bootparamd: This is host sparcclassic
rpc.bootparamd: Returning sparcclassic (none) 192.168.1.1
rpc.bootparamd: getfile got question for "sparcclassic" and file "root"
rpc.bootparamd: returning server:piserver
    path:/export/sunos/sparcclassic/root/ address: 192.168.1.1
```

NFS serves the root directory to provide the kernel

```
rpc.mountd[24925]: authenticated mount request from
    192.168.1.10:1023 for /export/sunos/sparcclassic/root (/export/sunos)
```
Bootparamd reports swap (not dump); NFS serves swap

```
rpc.bootparamd: getfile got question for "sparcclassic" and file "swap"
rpc.bootparamd: returning server:piserver
  path:/export/sunos/sparcclassic/swap address: 192.168.1.1
```

```
rpc.mountd[24925]: authenticated mount request from
  192.168.1.10:1021 for /export/sunos/sparcclassic/swap (/export/sunos)
```

```
rpc.bootparamd: getfile got question for "sparcclassic" and file "dump"
rpc.bootparamd: returning server: path: address: 0.0.0.0
```

Init runs and re-mounts / and /usr

```
rpc.mountd[24925]: authenticated mount request from 192.168.1.10:620
  for /export/sunos/sparcclassic/root/usr (/export/sunos)
rpc.mountd[24925]: authenticated mount request from 192.168.1.10:624
  for /export/sunos/sparcclassic/root (/export/sunos)
rpc.mountd[24925]: authenticated mount request from 192.168.1.10:625
  for /export/sunos/sparcclassic/root/usr (/export/sunos)
```
sunview
Our Second Opponent: SGI O2 “Toaster”

Silicon Graphics, 1996
180 MHz MIPS R5000 processor (32-bit)
Proprietary 239-pin DIMMs
UltraWide SCSI drives
100Base-T Ethernet
1280 × 1024 VGA video
SGI’s Imaging and Compression Engine
PS/2 Keyboard and Mouse
ESC on boot brings up service menu
No keyboard boots into serial console

We’re going to install IRIX 6.5.22 over the network
Start System
Install System Software
Run Diagnostics
Recover System
Enter Command Monitor
Select Keyboard Layout

WELCOME TO O2

Silicon Graphics Computer Systems
Set the O2’s IP Address via Command Monitor

Remove the keyboard and use serial port or “Esc” on boot

Cannot connect to keyboard -- check the cable.
Cannot open keyboard() for input

Running power-on diagnostics...

System Maintenance Menu

1) Start System
2) Install System Software
3) Run Diagnostics
4) Recover System
5) Enter Command Monitor

Option? 5
Command Monitor. Type "exit" to return to the menu.
> resetenv
> setenv netaddr 192.168.1.11
BOOTP for Network Configuration

On the Pi,

```
# apt install -y isc-dhcp-server
```

Configure BOOTP for the SGI in `/etc/dhcp/dhcpd.conf`

```
subnet 192.168.1.0 netmask 255.255.255.0 {
  allow bootp;
  ignore unknown-clients;
}

host sgio2 {
  hardware ethernet 08:00:69:02:b3:bc;
  fixed-address 192.168.1.11;
}
```

```
# service isc-dhcp-server restart
```
Mount the install tools for TFTP

Configure tftpd-hpa as before for Sun

sash = Stand Alone SHell

ARCS = MIPS-32 architecture

Download

IRIX 6.5 Installation Tools June 1998.img

from


# mkdir /tftpboot/irix
# mount -o loop IRIX*.img /tftpboot/irix

Makes available the second-stage bootloader sash, the disk partitioner fx, and self-test program ide, along with the installer and miniroot.
Install RSH to serve install volumes

RSH is the insecure precursor to SSH. SGI’s installer uses it to access networked install media

```
# apt install -y rsh-server
# useradd -U sgi
# mkdir /home/sgi
# echo "192.168.1.11 root" > ~sgi/.rhosts
# chown -R sgi sgi
# chgrp -R sgi sgi
```
Download the install media

Download from

https://winworldpc.com/product/irix/65

IRIX 6.5 Foundation 1.7z
IRIX 6.5 Foundation 2.7z
IRIX Development Foundation 1.2 for IRIX 6.5.7z

https://winworldpc.com/product/irix/6522

IRIX 6.5.22 Applications November-2003.7z
IRIX 6.5.22 Overlay 1 of 3.7z
IRIX 6.5.22 Overlay 2 of 3.7z
IRIX 6.5.22 Overlay 3 of 3.7z

Unpack each with 7zr e to extract the .iso files

https://archive.org/details/sgi_IRIX_6.5_Applications_June_1998

IRIX 6.5 Applications June 1998.img
Mount the install media

Make them available to the sgi user, which will load them via rsh as root.

# mkdir ~sgi/found1 ~sgi/found1 ~sgi/apps0 ~sgi/devel1
# mkdir ~sgi/overlay1 ~sgi/overlay2 ~sgi/overlay3 ~sgi/apps0
# mount -o loop -t efs
  IRIX-6.5-Foundation1.iso ~sgi/found1
# mount -o loop -t efs
  IRIX-6.5-Foundation2.iso ~sgi/found2
# mount -o loop -t efs
  "IRIX 6.5 Applications June 1998.img" ~sgi/apps0
# mount -o loop -t efs
  IRIX_Development_Foundation_1.2.iso ~sgi/devel1
# mount -o loop -t efs
  "IRIX 6.5.22 Overlay 1 of 3.iso" ~sgi/overlay1
# mount -o loop -t efs
  "IRIX 6.5.22 Overlay 2 of 3.iso" ~sgi/overlay2
# mount -o loop -t efs
  "IRIX 6.5.22 Overlay 3 of 3.iso" ~sgi/overlay3
# mount -o loop -t efs
  "IRIX 6.5.22 Applications November-2003.iso" ~sgi/apps1
Run the Disk Partitioner (1/2)

Partition the drive with the fx disk partitioner

```
> bootp()irix/stand/fx.ARCS
Setting $netaddr to 192.168.1.11 (from server )
Obtaining irix/stand/fx.ARCS from server
93664+25632+7056+2804464+48784d+5808+8832 entry: 0x8fd4b0f0
Currently in safe read-only mode.
Do you require extended mode with all options available? (no)
SGI Version 6.5 ARCS BE Apr 30, 1998
fx: "device-name" = (dksc)
fx: ctlr = (0)fx: drive = (1)
...opening dksc(0,1,0)
dks0d1s10: volume header not valid
...drive selftest...OK
fx: Warning: invalid label from disk driver, ignored
Scsi drive type == COMPAQ BD146863B3 HPB6
...creating default bootinfo
...created default partitions, use /repartition menu to change
...creating default volume directory
```
Partitioning (2/2)

-- please choose one (? for help, .. to quit this menu) --
[b]adbblock/ [exe]rcise/ [r]epartition/
fx> label

-- please choose one (? for help, .. to quit this menu) --
fx/label> sync

writing label info to dksc(0,1,0)
Start the installer

> bootp()irix/stand/sashARCS
Setting $netaddr to 192.168.1.11 (from server )
Obtaining irix/stand/sashARCS from server
130768+22320+3184+341792+48560d+4604+6816 entry: 0x8ffa60d0
Standalone Shell SGI Version 6.5 ARCS Apr 29, 1998 (32 Bit)
sash: setenv tapedevice bootp()irix/dist/sa
sash: install
Copying installation program to disk.
Setting $netaddr to 192.168.1.11 (from server )
Obtaining irix/dist/sa(mr) from server
....... 10% ....... 20% ....... 30% ....... 40% ....... 50%
....... 60% ....... 70% ....... 80% ....... 90% ....... 100%
Copy complete

irix/dist/sa is the installer program
The installer copies a miniroot

Downloads a miniroot via TFTP onto the swap partition

irix/dist/miniroot/inix.IP32 is the miniroot filesystem image for the O2’s architecture, which includes a kernel

Setting $netaddr to 192.168.1.11 (from server )
Obtaining irix/dist/miniroot/unix.IP32 from server
Setting $netaddr to 192.168.1.11 (from server )
Obtaining irix/dist/miniroot/unix.IP32 from server
3003608+266560 entry: 0x80003af0
IRIX Release 6.5 IP32 Version 05190110 System V
All Rights Reserved.
The installer starts

root on
   /hw/node/io/pci/1/scsi_ctlr/0/target/1/lun/0/disk/partition/1/block
   boot swap file on /dev/swap swplo 63000
WARNING: Cannot load runtime symbol table from bootp’ed kernel.
   Loadable modules will not be registered or loaded.
Creating miniroot devices, please wait...

Current system date is Tue Apr 30 19:09:24 PDT 2019

Mounting file systems:
/dev/dsk/dks0d1s0: Invalid argument
No valid file system found on: /dev/dsk/dks0d1s0
This is your system disk: without it we have nothing
on which to install software.

Make new file system on /dev/dsk/dks0d1s0 [yes/no/sh/help]: yes

About to remake (mkfs) file system on: /dev/dsk/dks0d1s0
This will destroy all data on disk partition: /dev/dsk/dks0d1s0.

Are you sure? [y/n] (n): y
Block size of filesystem 512 or 4096 bytes? 4096
The installer starts

Doing: mkfs -b size=4096 /dev/dsk/dks0d1s0
meta-data=/dev/rdsk/dks0d1s0 isize=256 agcount=137, agsize=26136
  data = bsize=4096 blocks=35810406, imaxpct=25
    sunit=0 swidth=0 blks
log =internal log bsize=4096 blocks=1000
realtime =none extsz=65536 blocks=0, rtextents=0
unwritten flagging is enabled

Trying again to mount /dev/dsk/dks0d1s0 on /root.

UX:make: INFO: ‘scsi’ is up to date.
    /dev/miniroot on /
    /dev/dsk/dks0d1s0 on /root

Invoking software installation.
Select the installation media

What is the hostname (system name) of your machine? sgio2
What is the netmask for 192.168.1.11?
Press Enter for the IP class default [0xffffffff00]:
Starting network with hostname: sgio2, at ip address: 192.168.1.11

At the Inst> prompt

from sgi@192.168.1.1:found1/dist
open sgi@192.168.1.1:found2/dist
open sgi@192.168.1.1:devel1/dist
open sgi@192.168.1.1:overlay1/dist
sgi@192.168.1.1:overlay2/dist
sgi@192.168.1.1:overlay3/dist
sgi@192.168.1.1:apps1/dist
Run the installation

If you plan to install from another distribution, either choose from the list below or enter the name of a different distribution. This will allow you to make selections from two or more distributions before starting the install.

Enter "done" if you are ready to proceed with the installation now.

1 sgi@192.168.1.1:overlay3/dist
2 sgi@192.168.1.1:overlay2/dist
3 sgi@192.168.1.1:overlay1/dist
4 sgi@192.168.1.1:devel1/dist/dist6.5
5 sgi@192.168.1.1:devel1/dist
6 sgi@192.168.1.1:found2/dist
7 sgi@192.168.1.1:found1/dist
8 done (no action, return to inst menu)

Resolve conflicts and go

Inst> install *
Inst> conflicts 1a 2a 3a 4a 5a 6a 7a
Inst> go
... hours pass ...
Inst> quit
/var/log/syslog on the Pi

BOOTP provides IP address:

dhcpd[16492]: BOOTREQUEST from 08:00:69:02:b3:bc via eth0
dhcpd[16492]: BOOTREPLY for 192.168.1.11 to sgio2
  (08:00:69:02:b3:bc) via eth0

TFTP provides second stage bootloader, the installer, and miniroot

in.tftpd[22362]: RRQ from 192.168.1.11 filename irix/stand/sashARCS
in.tftpd[22363]: RRQ from 192.168.1.11 filename irix/dist/sa
in.tftpd[22364]: RRQ from 192.168.1.11 filename irix/dist/miniroot/unix.IP32

RSH logins look like

systemd[1]: Created slice User Slice of sgi.
systemd[1]: Starting User Manager for UID 1001...
systemd[1]: Started Session c21 of user sgi.
Conclusions

Every config. file line represents an hour of frustration

Tried Solaris 2.3, but building root filesystem from install media not obvious. Could netinstall using similar recipe.

Wanted to do all this with a wireless router hacked to run OpenWRT, but OpenWRT doesn’t support RARP, Bootparam

But I highly recommend OpenWRT. Could be used to PXE boot more modern machines
Acknowledgements/References

Sun network booting and install

http://sites.inka.de/pcde/site/documentation_files/sunos_network_boot.html
https://github.com/halfmanhalftaco/sunboot

SGI network installation

http://techpubs.spinlocksolutions.com/irix/remote-irix-6.5-installation-from-linux.html
https://github.com/halfmanhalftaco/irixboot
https://github.com/unxmaal/booterizer