

WARMIUP

The Open Firmware for Dummies v1.0

The Open Firmware is the software "boot" integrated since all Macintosh PowerMac G3. He is the first to launch before all the drivers and, of course, before the system.

The Open Firmware is started at boot Macintosh. It is necessary to access, simultaneously press [Alt + command + o + f], the command button for the Apple key (any) or [Alt + Win + o + f] on a standard keyboard

Here are some useful commands:

mac-boot : launch startup procedure OSX
eject cd : to eject a CD or DVD drive
devalias : sets a variable representing a device (eg *devalias alias device-path*)
devalias ls : provides a list of devalias
dev / ls : can list the devices on your machine
pci dev ls : provides a detailed list of PCI cards
bye : reboot your machine

The OF has many environment variables (VAR) configurable (VALUE) with the setenv command.

Examples :

printenv : displays all variables OF
set-defaults : resets all variables in the OF to their default values
set-default VAR : gives the default value for the variable VAR
setenv VAR VALUE : VALUE gives value to the variable VAR
printenv VAR : displays the value of the variable VAR

VAR is an environment variable of the OF (eg *boot-device*)
VALUE is the value of the variable (eg *disk*)

Here are some essential variables:

boot-device : contains the boot partition
boot-file : contains the name of the startup file or settings, optional
auto-boot? : defines whether the machine automatically starts: true / false

Here are also some useful shortcuts to start:

Hold down the C key to boot from CD / DVD

Hold down the alt key to access a boot menu

In case of problems with your Mac you can reset the PRAM that stores the following information:

- Volume of speakers
- Screen Resolution
- Selecting the boot drive
- Latest information about a kernel panic, if necessary

Procedure:

1. Shut down your Mac.
2. Locate the following keys on the keyboard: Command (⌘), Option, P, and R. You will need to hold these keys down simultaneously in step 4.
3. Turn on the computer.
4. Press and hold the Command-Option-P-R keys before the gray screen appears.
5. Hold the keys down until the computer restarts and you hear the startup sound for the second time.
6. Release the keys.

sources :

<http://www.netneurotic.de/mac/openfirmware.html>

<http://www.firmworks.com/QuickRef.html>

<http://support.apple.com/kb/ht1379>