#### **NAME**

```
ofw_console - Open Firmware console
```

### **SYNOPSIS**

```
cpu AIM
options OFWCONS_POLL_HZ=N
```

options KDB
options DDB
options ALT\_BREAK\_TO\_DEBUGGER

#### DESCRIPTION

The **ofw\_console** driver provides a simple text console, using the Open Firmware services for input and output. It will use the Open Firmware console devices set via the *input-device* and *output-device* variables.

This driver is deprecated and only provided as a fallback console mechanism if the real console hardware can not be driven by FreeBSD.

In case the **ofw\_console** console appears to work too slowly, its responsiveness probably can be improved by including **options OFWCONS\_POLL\_HZ=N**. When omitted, OFWCONS\_POLL\_HZ defaults to 4. For example, on Sun Ultra 2 a value of 20 or higher works best. Too high values, on the other hand, can cause **ofw\_console** to unnecessarily consume CPU.

## **FILES**

```
/dev/console
/dev/keyboard terminal input device in case the console input device is the keyboard
/dev/screen terminal output device in case the console output device is the screen
/dev/tty[a-z] terminal device in case both the console input and output device is tty[a-z]
```

### **SEE ALSO**

```
akbd(4), powermac_nvram(4), vt(4)
```

### **HISTORY**

The **ofw\_console** driver first appeared in FreeBSD 5.0.

## **AUTHORS**

The **ofw\_console** driver was written by Benno Rice *<benno@FreeBSD.org>*.

### **CAVEATS**

Since the Open Firmware will handle BREAK (or Stop-A) sequences before **ofw\_console**, the preferred way to enter ddb(4) when using **ofw\_console** is to include **options ALT\_BREAK\_TO\_DEBUGGER** in a ddb-enabled kernel, and enter the alternate BREAK sequence (RETURN TILDE CTRL-b).

# **BUGS**

The **ofw\_console** driver also not attach to the hardware resources it actually talks to.