

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.