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Command-Line Tips and Tricks

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BusyBox (initramfs): Ubuntu Boot Problem Fix

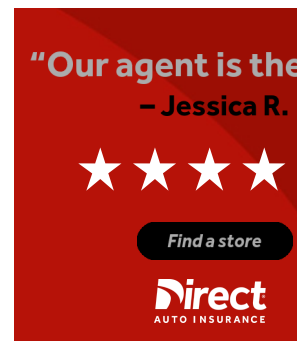
Posted on September 10, 2021 (/busybox-initramfs-ubuntu-boot-problem-fix/) by admin (/author/admin/)

(/busybox-initramfs-ubuntu-boot-problem-fix/)

The “*initramfs boot problem*” on Ubuntu or Linux Mint is a situation when a computer does not boot up properly and instead of going straight to the login screen, drops you to the BusyBox shell with the initramfs command-line prompt.

This error usually occurs when the partition containing the operating system got corrupted.

Luckily this problem has a very easy and straightforward solution and in this note i will show how to fix it.



Initramfs Boot Problem Fix

The BusyBox shell with the initramfs prompt usually appears after booting the computer if the partition containing the operating system got corrupted:

```
BusyBox v1.27.2 (Ubuntu 1:1.27.2-2ubuntu3.3) built-in shell (ash)
Enter 'help' for a list of built-in commands.

(initramfs)
```

Type `exit` to find out the exact name of the corrupted partition:

```
(initramfs) exit
/dev/mapper/ubuntu--vg-root contains a file system with errors, check forced.
Inodes that were part of a corrupted orphan linked list found.

/dev/mapper/ubuntu--vg-root: UNEXPECTED INCONSISTENCY; RUN fsck MANUALLY.
(i.e., without -a or -p options)
fsck exited with status code 4.
The root filesystem on /dev/mapper/ubuntu--vg-root requires a manual fsck.

BusyBox v1.27.2 (Ubuntu 1:1.27.2-2ubuntu3.3) built-in shell (ash)
Enter 'help' for a list of built-in commands.

(initramfs)
```

To solve the “*initramfs boot problem*” on Ubuntu or Linux Mint, you need to fix the filesystem errors on the corrupted partition using the `fsck` command:

```
(initramfs) fsck /dev/mapper/ubuntu--vg-root -y
```

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Once the filesystem is repaired, reboot the computer:

```
...  
/dev/mapper/ubuntu--vg-root: ***** FILE SYSTEM WAS MODIFIED *****  
/dev/mapper/ubuntu--vg-root: 725778/7512064 files (0.8% non-contiguous), 1160813/3002163 blocks  
  
(initramfs) reboot
```

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PER DE BRIGHTS

REPLY

October 14, 2021 at 5:19 pm (/busybox-initramfs-ubuntu-boot-problem-fix/#comment-23861)

Thanks very much.

Simple and clear...



DARION

REPLY

(https://u2
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August 19, 2022 at 4:54 am (/busybox-initramfs-ubuntu-boot-problem-fix/#comment-33553)

This didn't work for my issue. Typing 'exit' only resulted in the same prompt being reposted (BusyBox v1.30 (Ubuntu.... blah, blah, blah)



ROBERTO MARTINES DEL ANO

REPLY

December 19, 2021 at 9:13 pm (/busybox-initramfs-ubuntu-boot-problem-fix/#comment-25001)

in my ubuntu fsck does not exist



ERIKA

REPLY

December 28, 2021 at 1:21 pm (/busybox-initramfs-ubuntu-boot-problem-fix/#comment-25147)

Amazing stuff.

Magic.

Thanks a lot!



JUDGE

REPLY

January 18, 2022 at 2:48 am (/busybox-initramfs-ubuntu-boot-problem-fix/#comment-25669)

Thank you thank you thank you.....



MARK

REPLY

January 22, 2022 at 2:17 am (/busybox-initramfs-ubuntu-boot-problem-fix/#comment-25791)

Worked like a charm. for Mint 19.1 Mate

Many thanks.



PJJNS

REPLY

February 12, 2022 at 8:20 pm (/busybox-initramfs-ubuntu-boot-problem-fix/#comment-26453)

OMG! thanks a million.

Forever Linux 😊



MONTY

REPLY

February 25, 2022 at 7:32 am (/busybox-initramfs-ubuntu-boot-problem-fix/#comment-26810)

Indeed, a very clear instruction with excellent examples.

Thanks mate!



BS

REPLY

April 2, 2022 at 4:20 am (/busybox-initramfs-ubuntu-boot-problem-fix/#comment-27858)

Exit doesn't return anything under a bad Ubuntu reboot. Do, can't see which partition has the error.

Come on, if someone stoned violent solve a boot issue, it better be an OS you never need yo reboot.



BNOVNIL

REPLY

August 29, 2022 at 7:17 pm (/busybox-initramfs-ubuntu-boot-problem-fix/#comment-33893)

I used fsck /dev/sda2 then exit

**LOLO** REPLY

September 6, 2022 at 3:29 am (/busybox-initramfs-ubuntu-boot-problem-fix/#comment-34141)

I typed exit and the same Busy Box message appears, if nothing about corrupt partitions

**THOMAS** REPLY

November 20, 2022 at 12:34 pm (/busybox-initramfs-ubuntu-boot-problem-fix/#comment-40188)

Works fine for me an Mint 20.3.

Thanks.

**KARL DILKINGTON** REPLY

December 15, 2022 at 1:18 pm (/busybox-initramfs-ubuntu-boot-problem-fix/#comment-41356)

Thanks a lot. Worked on mint 21

**LIVIU** REPLY

January 29, 2023 at 8:18 pm (/busybox-initramfs-ubuntu-boot-problem-fix/#comment-44340)

Worked like a charm for me mate.

Thanks a lot

**LAURA DIETZ** REPLY

February 28, 2023 at 5:07 pm (/busybox-initramfs-ubuntu-boot-problem-fix/#comment-47094)

Thanks. You saved my day!

**LINUXCRUIZER** REPLY

May 4, 2023 at 6:16 pm (/busybox-initramfs-ubuntu-boot-problem-fix/#comment-54283)

Thanks so much!

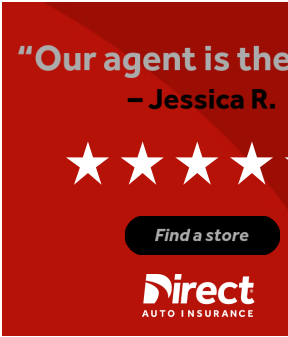
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