

# Fun with LILO and rEFIt: Resolving Boot Errors After an Upgrade

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When [debian](#) is the only OS running on a machine, running **apt-get update** and **apt-get upgrade** works well. Under my [Mac/Debian dual boot setup](#), though, upgrading has always been something of a crap shoot. The most recent problem was this error, after an upgrade and a reboot: [EBDA is big; kernel setup stack overlaps LILO second stage](#). [This solution](#) was closest to my situation, and although the advice was helpful, I managed to fix mine with fewer steps:

1. Boot the Mac partition (which, fortunately, was still working)
2. Run Terminal, and use the `diskutil list` command to find out where Linux was installed on hard drive (in my setup, it was `/dev/sda3`)
3. Reboot, this time with the [Debian install disc](#) I used to install Debian originally
4. Choose **Advance Options** -> **Rescue Mode** -> **Shell mounted on /dev/sda3** (this saved me the effort of doing all the mounting described in steps 1 through 5 of the [ubuntu forum solution](#))
5. Inspect `/etc/lilo.conf` (it looked correct, so I didn't make any edits)
6. Update lilo: `/sbin/lilo -v`
7. Reboot (my mistake was doing this from the rescue mode shell, when I should have exited and rebooted out of the installer)

This time, when I chose Linux from the [rEFIt](#) menu, the kernel loaded normally (`/dev/sda3` was scanned because of an improper unmount, or lack thereof, but `fsck` did its job without incident), and my linux partition was usable again.

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