

ZFS Boot Environments

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<https://is.gd/BEADM>



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- In ZFS (as everywhere) **snapshot** is **read only**.
- In ZFS **clone** can be mounted **read write** (and you can *boot* from it).
- The BEs are placed in the **pool/ROOT** ZFS dataset path.
sys/ROOT/default
sys/ROOT/pre-upgrade
(...)

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- Perform upgrade and test the results **inside FreeBSD Jail**.
- **Copy/move** ZFS Boot Environment into another machine.
- **Major reconfiguration** (Bareos/Postfix/...).

Can I test and break ZFS BEs without consequence?

Yes you can! Over and over again.



Groundhog Day (1993)

How it was before BEs?

Vendors used **split mirror** or **copying files** to the other/second disk.



IBM AIX

```
alt_disk_copy  
alt_disk_install  
nimadm  
unmirrorvg  
( ... )
```



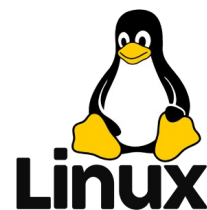
SUN Solaris *Live Upgrade*

```
lucreate  
luactivate  
luupgrade  
ludelete  
( ... )
```



HP-UX

```
lvsplit  
lvmerge  
vgchange  
vgcfgrestore  
( ... )
```



GNU/Linux

```
mdadm  
mirrorlv  
lvconvert  
( ... )
```

Mistyped command?

Felling lucky?



Raiders of the Lost Ark (1981)

The beadm command

One simple command – **beadm** – to create/activate/destroy ZFS Boot Environments.

beadm

usage:

```
beadm activate <beName>
```

```
beadm create [-e nonActiveBe | -e beName@snapshot] <beName>
```

```
beadm create <beName@snapshot>
```

```
beadm destroy [-F] <beName | beName@snapshot>
```

```
beadm list [-a] [-s] [-D] [-H]
```

```
beadm rename <origBeName> <newBeName>
```

```
beadm mount <beName> [mountpoint]
```

```
beadm { umount | unmount } [-f] <beName>
```

```
beadm version
```


The beadm is written in POSIX /bin/sh

```
513 (activate) # -----
514 if [ $# -ne 2 ]
515 then
516     __usage
517 fi
518 __be_exist ${POOL}/${BEDS}/${2}
519 if [ "${BOOTFS}" = "${POOL}/${BEDS}/${2}" ]
520 then
521     echo "Already activated"
522     exit 0
523 else
524     if __be_mounted ${POOL}/${BEDS}/${2}
525     then
526         MNT=$( mount | grep -E "^${POOL}/${BEDS}/${2}" | awk '{print $3}' )
527         if [ "${MNT}" != "/" ]
528         then
529             # boot environment is not current root and its mounted
530             echo "Attempt to unmount boot environment '${2}' mounted at '${MNT}'"
531             if ! umount ${MNT} 1> /dev/null 2> /dev/null
532             then
533                 echo "ERROR: Unable to unmount boot environment '${2}' mounted at '${MNT}'"
534                 echo "ERROR: Cannot activate manually mounted boot environment '${2}'"
535                 exit 1
536             fi
537             echo "Gracefully unmounted boot environment '${2}' from '${MNT}' mount point"
538         fi
539     fi
540     # do not change root (/) mounted boot environment mountpoint
541     HAVE_ZFSBE=0
542     if [ "${ROOTFS}" != "${POOL}/${BEDS}/${2}" ]
543     then
544         TMPMNT=$( mktemp -d -t BE-${2} )
545         if ! mkdir -p ${TMPMNT} 2> /dev/null
546         then
547             echo "ERROR: Cannot create '${TMPMNT}' directory"
548             exit 1
549         fi
550         MOUNT=0
551         while read FS MNT TYPE OPTS DUMP FSCK;
552         do
553             if [ "${FS}" = "${POOL}/${BEDS}/${2}" ]
```

Example beadm usage (1/5)

List current BEs and create new one named **newbe**.

```
# beadm list
```

```
BE           Active Mountpoint  Space Created
11.2-RELEASE NR      /           6.3G 2018-05-21 16:01
```

```
# beadm create newbe
```

```
Created successfully
```

```
# beadm list
```

```
BE           Active Mountpoint  Space Created
11.2-RELEASE NR      /           6.3G 2018-05-21 16:01
newbe       -           -           296.0K 2018-07-18 10:04
```

Example beadm usage (2/5)

Verify which snapshot is used for this clone used as newbe BE.

```
# beadm list -s
```

BE/Dataset/Snapshot	Active	Mountpoint	Space	Created
11.2-RELEASE				
sys/ROOT/11.2-RELEASE	NR	/	6.3G	2018-05-21 16:01
sys/ROOT/11.2-RELEASE@2018-07-18-10:04:22	-	-	288.0K	2018-07-18 10:04
newbe				
sys/ROOT/newbe	-	-	8.0K	2018-07-18 10:04
11.2-RELEASE@2018-07-18-10:04:22	-	-	288.0K	2018-07-18 10:04

```
# zfs get origin sys/ROOT/newbe
```

NAME	PROPERTY	VALUE	SOURCE
sys/ROOT/newbe	origin	sys/ROOT/11.2-RELEASE@2018-07-18-10:04:22	-

Example beadm usage (3/5)

Rename snapshot used for this clone.

```
# zfs rename sys/ROOT/11.2-RELEASE@2018-07-18-10:04:22 sys/ROOT/11.2-RELEASE@newbe
```

```
# zfs get origin sys/ROOT/newbe
```

NAME	PROPERTY	VALUE	SOURCE
sys/ROOT/newbe	origin	sys/ROOT/11.2-RELEASE@ newbe	-

```
# beadm list -s
```

BE/Dataset/Snapshot	Active	Mountpoint	Space	Created
11.2-RELEASE				
sys/ROOT/11.2-RELEASE	NR	/	6.3G	2018-05-21 16:01
sys/ROOT/11.2-RELEASE@ newbe	-	-	516.0K	2018-07-18 10:04
newbe				
sys/ROOT/newbe	-	-	8.0K	2018-07-18 10:04
11.2-RELEASE@ newbe	-	-	516.0K	2018-07-18 10:04

Example beadm usage (4/5)

Activate the **newbe** BE to be booted after the restart.

```
# beadm list
```

BE	Active	Mountpoint	Space	Created
11.2-RELEASE	NR	/	6.4G	2018-05-21 16:01
newbe	-	-	68.8M	2018-07-18 10:04

```
# beadm activate newbe
```

```
Activated successfully
```

```
# beadm list
```

BE	Active	Mountpoint	Space	Created
11.2-RELEASE	N	/	187.5M	2018-05-21 16:01
newbe	R	-	6.3G	2018-07-18 10:04

Example beadm usage (5/5)

Remove **newbe**. It will ask for additional confirmation as we renamed snapshot.

```
# beadm list
```

BE	Active	Mountpoint	Space	Created
11.2-RELEASE	NR	/	6.4G	2018-05-21 16:01
newbe	-	-	68.8M	2018-07-18 10:04

```
# beadm destroy newbe
```

```
Are you sure you want to destroy 'newbe'?
```

```
This action cannot be undone (y/[n]): y
```

```
Boot environment 'newbe' was created from existing snapshot
```

```
Destroy '11.2-RELEASE@newbe' snapshot? (y/[n]): y
```

```
Destroyed successfully
```

```
# beadm list
```

BE	Active	Mountpoint	Space	Created
11.2-RELEASE	NR	/	6.4G	2018-05-21 16:01

FreeBSD loader integration

Selection of BE at boot is integrated into the FreeBSD **loader**.



FreeBSD loader integration

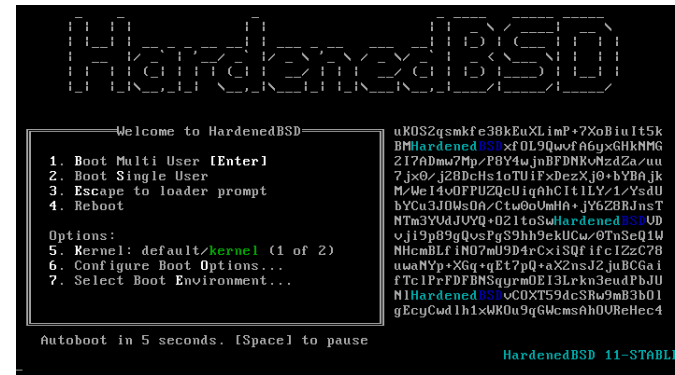
The **test** BE is selected to boot instead of the **default** one.



Not just FreeBSD Loader ...

Its integrated into other operating systems as well.

- BSDs
 - FreeBSD
 - HardenedBSD
(rolling FreeBSD fork)

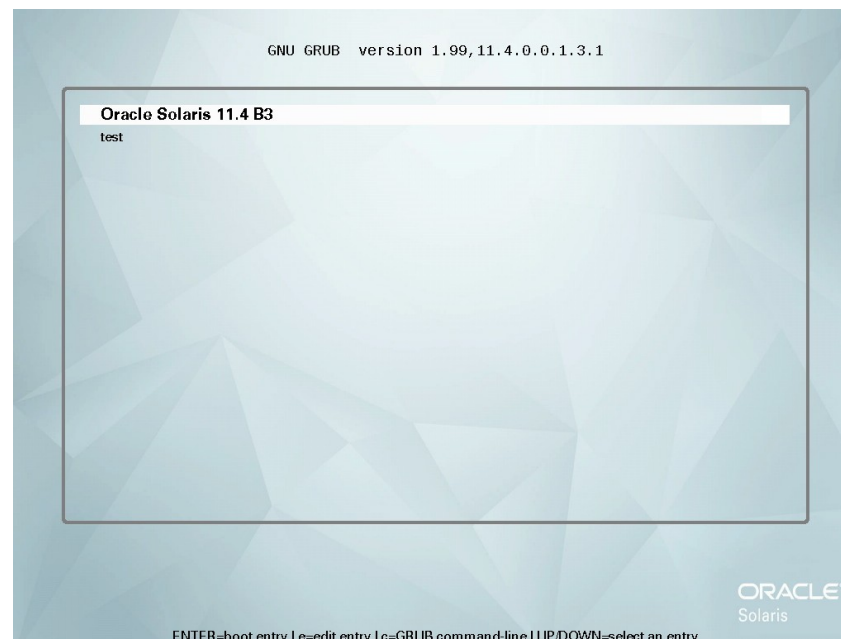
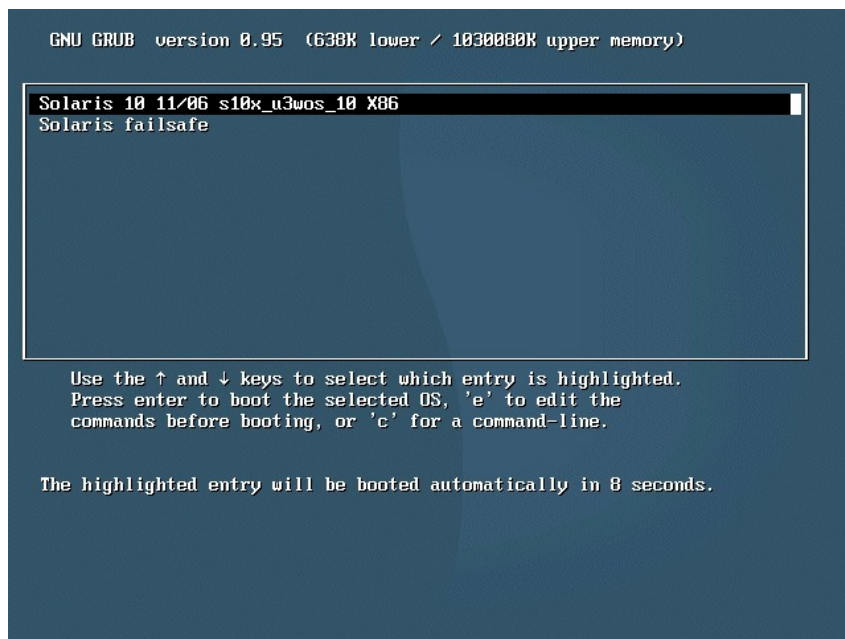


- Illumos
 - OpenIndiana
 - OmniOS



Original not so original ...

SUN Solaris and Oracle Solaris use GNU GRUB for the BE selection at boot.



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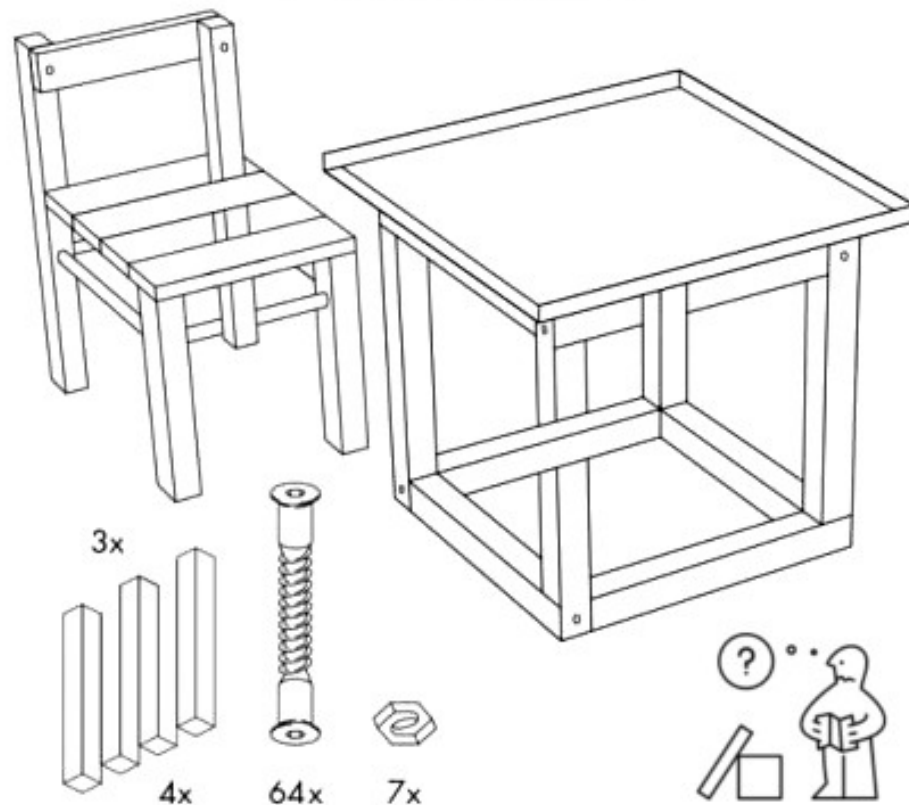
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- Howtos are complicated and **VERY** long.
- BTRFS alternative with **snapper** on openSUSE/SUSE.
 - Red Hat deprecated BTRFS recently.
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LINÜX

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Cite from **System Recovery and Snapshot Management with Snapper for openSUSE Leap 15 Linux**.

- Limitations

A **complete system rollback**, restoring the complete system to the identical state as it was in when a snapshot was taken, **is not possible**.

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Default FreeBSD layout supports ZFS BEs

Default Auto (ZFS) **bsdinstall** option supports ZFS BEs.

zfs list

NAME	USED	AVAIL	REFER	MOUNTPOINT
zroot	339M	8.87G	88K	/zroot
zroot/ROOT	337M	8.87G	88K	none
zroot/ROOT/default	337M	8.87G	337M	/
zroot/tmp	88K	8.87G	88K	/tmp
zroot/usr	352K	8.87G	88K	/usr
zroot/usr/home	88K	8.87G	88K	/usr/home
zroot/usr/ports	88K	8.87G	88K	/usr/ports
zroot/usr/src	88K	8.87G	88K	/usr/src
zroot/var	596K	8.87G	88K	/var
zroot/var/audit	88K	8.87G	88K	/var/audit
zroot/var/crash	88K	8.87G	88K	/var/crash
zroot/var/log	152K	8.87G	152K	/var/log
zroot/var/mail	92K	8.87G	92K	/var/mail
zroot/var/tmp	88K	8.87G	88K	/var/tmp

Default FreeBSD layout supports ZFS BEs

The **/usr** and **/var** filesystems have **canmount** property set to **off**.

```
# zfs get -r canmount zroot
NAME                PROPERTY  VALUE      SOURCE
zroot                canmount  on         default
zroot/ROOT           canmount  on         default
zroot/ROOT/default  canmount  noauto    local
zroot/tmp            canmount  on         default
zroot/usr           canmount off       local
zroot/usr/home      canmount  on         default
zroot/usr/ports     canmount  on         default
zroot/usr/src       canmount  on         default
zroot/var         canmount off       local
zroot/var/audit     canmount  on         default
zroot/var/crash     canmount  on         default
zroot/var/log       canmount  on         default
zroot/var/mail      canmount  on         default
zroot/var/tmp       canmount  on         default
```


Default FreeBSD layout supports ZFS BEs

This way **/usr** and **/var** are placed on the **/** dataset the **zroot/ROOT/default** BE.

```
# df -g
```

Filesystem	1G-blocks	Used	Avail	Capacity	Mounted on	
zroot/ROOT/default	9	0	8	4%	/	← /usr & /var
devfs	0	0	0	100%	/dev	
zroot/tmp	8	0	8	0%	/tmp	
zroot/usr/home	8	0	8	0%	/usr/home	
zroot/usr/ports	8	0	8	0%	/usr/ports	
zroot/usr/src	8	0	8	0%	/usr/src	
zroot/var/audit	8	0	8	0%	/var/audit	
zroot/var/crash	8	0	8	0%	/var/crash	
zroot/var/log	8	0	8	0%	/var/log	
zroot/var/mail	8	0	8	0%	/var/mail	
zroot/var/tmp	8	0	8	0%	/var/tmp	
zroot	8	0	8	0%	/zroot	

Add **beadm** to FreeBSD

Just add **beadm** package or install **sysutils/beadm** port ... or download it.

- Package.

```
# pkg install -y beadm
```

- Port.

```
# make -C /usr/ports/sysutils/beadm install clean
```

- Manual.

```
# fetch https://raw.githubusercontent.com/vermaden/beadm/master/beadm
```

```
# chmod +x beadm
```

```
# ./beadm list
```

BE	Active	Mountpoint	Space	Created
11.2-RELEASE	NR	/	6.4G	2018-05-21 16:01
newbe	-	-	80.2M	2018-07-18 10:04

Using update/upgrade tools with BEs

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Using update/upgrade tools with BEs

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- By contrast on **Solaris/Illumos** by default they operate on newly created BE and require reboot into that BE.

PKG(8) - <https://man.freebsd.org/pkg>

- c <chroot path>, --chroot <chroot path>
pkg will chroot in the <chroot path> environment.
- r <root directory>, --rootdir <root directory>
pkg will install all packages within the specified <root directory>.

FREEBSD-UPDATE(8) - <https://man.freebsd.org/freebsd-update>

- b basedir Operate on a system mounted at basedir. (default: /)
- d workdir Store working files in workdir. (default: /var/db/freebsd-update)

Emulate Solaris/Illumos behaviour on FreeBSD

Example upgrade of packages in the newly created BE for that purpose.

```
# beadm create safe
```

```
Created successfully
```

```
# beadm mount safe
```

```
Mounted successfully on '/tmp/BE-safe.ostSai22'
```

```
# pkg -r /tmp/BE-safe.ostSai22 update -f
```

```
(...)
```

```
# pkg -r /tmp/BE-safe.ostSai22 upgrade
```

```
(...)
```

```
# pkg -r /tmp/BE-safe.ostSai22 info -s feh
```

```
feh-2.27.1          438KiB
```

```
# pkg -r / info -s feh
```

```
feh-2.27           438KiB
```

```
# pkg info -s feh
```

```
feh-2.27           438KiB
```

Emulate Solaris/Illumos behaviour on FreeBSD

Example **fetch security updates** in the newly created BE for that purpose.

```
# beadm create safe
```

```
Created successfully
```

```
# beadm mount safe /tmp/safe
```

```
Mounted successfully on '/tmp/safe'
```

```
# rm -rf /var/db/freebsd-update
```

```
# freebsd-update -b /tmp/safe fetch
```

```
freebsd-update: Directory does not exist or is not writable: /var/db/freebsd-update
```

```
# freebsd-update -b /tmp/safe -d /tmp/safe/var/db/freebsd-update fetch
```

```
Looking up update.FreeBSD.org mirrors... 3 mirrors found.
```

```
Fetching metadata signature for 11.2-RELEASE from update4.freebsd.org... done.
```

```
Fetching metadata index... done.
```

```
Inspecting system... done.
```

```
Preparing to download files... done.
```

```
No updates needed to update system to 11.2-RELEASE-p0.
```


Case where FreeBSD ISO or MEMSTICK boot is required

Deleting **/boot** directory from the BE that is currently set as **bootfs** in your zpool.

```
# beadm create test
```

```
Created successfully
```

```
# beadm list
```

BE	Active	Mountpoint	Space	Created
safe	NR	/	6.2G	2018-05-21 16:01
test	-	-	220.0K	2018-07-22 01:17

```
# rm -rf /boot
```

```
# reboot
```

Case where FreeBSD ISO or MEMSTICK boot is required

Now **loader(8)** does not even show us *Boot Menu* but only following error message.

```
\
Can't find /boot/zfsloader

FreeBSD/x86 boot
Default: zroot/ROOT/safe:/boot/kernel/kernel
boot: zroot/ROOT/test:/boot/kernel/kernel/
int=00000006  err=00000000  efl=00010056  eip=00000003
eax=fd310000  ebx=00310000  ecx=a010001e  edx=00026948
esi=0001e5f0  edi=00094768  ebp=000949d0  esp=00310000
cs=0008  ds=0010  es=0010  fs=0010  gs=0010  ss=0010
cs:eip=f0 53 ff 00 f0 53 ff 00-f0 53 ff 00 f0 53 ff 00
          f0 53 ff 00 f0 cc e9 00-f0 53 ff 00 f0 a5 fe 00
ss:esp=00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00-00 00 00 00 00 00 00
          00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00-00 00 00 00 00 00 00
BTX halted
```

- Bug already submitted - https://bugs.freebsd.org/bugzilla/show_bug.cgi?id=229926

Case where FreeBSD ISO or MEMSTICK boot is required

Workaround that brings system back to normal functional state.

- Boot broken system from FreeBSD ISO or MEMSTICK image and select **<Live CD>** option.

```
login: root  
( ... )  
root@:~ #
```

- Forcefully import the ZFS pool.

```
root@:~ # zpool import -f zroot
```

- Set **bootfs** manually for the ZFS pool to created backup BE - **zroot/ROOT/test** in our case.

```
root@:~ # zpool set bootfs=zroot/ROOT/test zroot
```

- Reboot system without FreeBSD ISO or MEMSTICK image and it will boot as usual with *Boot Menu*.

```
root@:~ # reboot
```

History/Mods/Forks/Alternatives

First one was **manageBE** script which had some problems and complicated syntax.

- Create new BE.

```
# manageBE create -n 9_20120321 -s 9_20120317 -p zroot
```

```
manageBE: cannot create /zroot/ROOT/9_20120321/boot/loader.conf: No such file or directory
```

```
manageBE: cannot create /zroot/ROOT/9_20120321/etc/fstab: No such file or directory
```

```
The new Boot-Environment is ready to be updated and/or activated.
```

- Listing existing BEs.

```
# manageBE list
```

```
Poolname: zroot
```

BE Name	Active Now	Active Reboot	Mountpoint	Space Used
9_20120321	no	no	/ROOT/9_20120321	145M
9_20120317	yes	yes	/	1.59G

```
Used by BE snapshots: 1.99G
```

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- The **manageBE** source - <https://outpost.h3q.com/patches/manageBE/manageBE>
- Current **beadm** implementation - <https://github.com/vermaden/beadm> ==> source for **beadm** package
 - Fork with separate boot pool support - <https://bitbucket.org/aasoft/beadm> ==> fork of [vermaden/beadm](https://github.com/vermaden/beadm)
 - Fork with support for Linux system - <https://github.com/b333z/beadm> ==> fork of [vermaden/beadm](https://github.com/vermaden/beadm)
 - Original **HOWTO: FreeBSD ZFS Madness** thread - <https://forums.freebsd.org/threads/31662/>

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 - Original **HOWTO: FreeBSD ZFS Madness** thread - <https://forums.freebsd.org/threads/31662/>
- The **zedenv** in Python 3.6 with support for FreeBSD and Linux - <https://github.com/johnramsdan/zedenv>
 - Currently at alpha stage of development (experimental) - not production ready.
 - Needs **python36** and **py36-setuptools** packages to work.
 - Supports plugins but currently comparable with **beadm** features or its forks.

History/Mods/Forks/Alternatives

Current upstream **beadm** source and alternatives/forks.

- The **manageBE** source - <https://outpost.h3q.com/patches/manageBE/manageBE>
- Current **beadm** implementation - <https://github.com/vermaden/beadm> ==> source for **beadm** package
 - Fork with separate boot pool support - <https://bitbucket.org/aasoft/beadm> ==> fork of [vermaden/beadm](https://github.com/vermaden/beadm)
 - Fork with support for Linux system - <https://github.com/b333z/beadm> ==> fork of [vermaden/beadm](https://github.com/vermaden/beadm)
 - Original **HOWTO: FreeBSD ZFS Madness** thread - <https://forums.freebsd.org/threads/31662/>
- The **zedenv** in Python 3.6 with support for FreeBSD and Linux - <https://github.com/johnramsdn/zedenv>
 - Currently at alpha stage of development (experimental) - not production ready.
 - Needs **python36** and **py36-setuptools** packages to work.
 - Supports plugins but currently comparable with **beadm** features or its forks.
- Ansible **beadm** module - https://docs.ansible.com/ansible/latest/modules/beadm_module.html

Questions?

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Thank You!

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