

## PPCOF1.1 RM01 Release Notes

### Documentation for PowerPC Open Firmware 1.1

Document #	Title
PPCOFWA1/UM2	PowerPC Open Firmware User's Manual, Vol. 1
PPCOFWA2/UM2	PowerPC Open Firmware User's Manual, Vol. 2
PPCOFWA/QR2	PowerPC Open Firmware Quick Reference Card
PPCOFWQSA/UG1	PowerPC Open Firmware Quick Start Guide

### Added features not documented in the manuals

#### Formatting a hard drive for AIX

This is a menu option which is accessed through the **Administrative Options...** menu and the **Modify the Configuration Setting...** menu.

Choosing this option allows you to format a SCSI hard drive and place a single, FAT file system partition on the drive.

1. Select the **Format the Hard Drive** option.

The available SCSI devices are displayed for you to select from, similar to this example:

```
Scanning for devices, please wait.  
/pci/scsi@c  
a) target 0 Unit 0 Disk SEAGATE ST32430W 0660  
/pci/scsi@11  
/pci/pci@13/scsi@6  
b) target 0 Unit 0 Disk SEAGATE ST12400NST324300456
```

2. You are prompted to select the drive you want to format. Enter the corresponding letter of the drive and press **ENTER**, or press **q** to quit.

```
Enter the letter of the drive you wish to format. (q)uit
b (b = drive selected)
```

3. The following prompt appears. If you wish to continue with the format option, enter **Y**. You are then asked to enter the size of the the FAT partition.

```
Initializing device, please wait.
```

Should you decide to format the disk, a destructive low-level format will be performed and a FAT file partition is placed on the disk. The FAT file partition will be the only defined partition on the disk.

```
Do you want to continue? (y/n) y
Enter FAT partition size in MB. (default = 20 = enter)
Partition Region Boot Format Size (MB)
1Primary Yes FAT-16 20
done
```

4. If you wish to abort the procedure, enter **N** and press **<ESC>** to return to the previous menu.

### NVRAM User Variables Backup and Restore:

Two commands have been added to save and restore the NVRAM user variables onto a DOS-formatted floppy disk. These commands are executed from the **ok** prompt.

Command	Description
<b>save-nvram</b>	The <b>save-nvram</b> command saves the NVRAM variables to a file called <b>FLASH.IMG</b>
<b>restore-nvram</b>	The <b>restore-nvram</b> command reads the file <b>FLASH.IMG</b> and restores the variables to NVRAM and resets the system NVRAM variables to their defaults

## Errata

TAR#	Description
1-42887	<p>cntl/alt/n does not work from serial port. Code was added in a recent drop which supports cntl/alt/n (and D) keyboard overrides of NVRAM values. It works correctly from the keyboard but does not work from the serial port. Pressing cntl/alt/n on a terminal attached to the serial port has no effect.</p>
1-42714	<p>Need GXT150 graphics card support. Open Firmware does not support the IBM GXT150 PCI graphics card.</p>
1-43498	<p>Missing IDE Device Entry. IDE/EIDE is not yet supported by Open Firmware.</p>
1-43696	<p>Using serial IO svideo diagnostic causes exception. Running the system diagnostics produces an exception condition in the following circumstance: The diagnostics have run at least once since system reset, The output device is serial. The output device does not have to be serial during the first execution of the diagnostics for the failure to occur. As long as it is serial when the diagnostics are run the second time the failure will occur.</p>
1-43698	<p>Autoscan boot doesn't go on if nonbootable media. The autoscan boot operation does not attempt to proceed on to the next device in the device boot list if a nonbootable media is inserted into the floppy, tape, or CD-ROM drive.</p>
1-42547	<p>No screening of extended ASCII code. When a keyboard type choice is different than US (see below), and the 'Invoke the Command Line Prompt' is invoked, the national characters typed aren't correctly watched on the screen (e.g.; e accurate is screening i). It seems the 8th bit is not coded. The extended ASCII table isn't implemented</p>
1-43212	<p>Multigraphics card problem with 1 monitor. If multiple graphics cards are in the system, the console will default to the first graphics card encountered according to the pci-probe-list environment variable.</p>
1-43343	<p>Need a prompt that default settings are used. If default settings are being used during initialization, a message is sent out the serial port. This message should be sent to the "console" device.</p>

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<b>TAR#</b>	<b>Description</b>
1-43390	Need broadcast-timeout variable for bootp/rarp. There needs to be a "broadcast-timeout" configuration variable to govern how long a bootp/rarp boot request waits for an acknowledgment from the boot server. The variable would be in minutes and default to zero (0) which would mean "timeout disabled, wait forever".