

**NAME**

**bhyveload** - load a FreeBSD guest inside a bhyve virtual machine

**SYNOPSIS**

```
bhyveload [-C] [-S] [-c cons-dev] [-d disk-path] [-e name=value] [-h host-path] [-l os-loader]  
[-m memsize[K/k/M/m/G/g/T/t]] vmname
```

**DESCRIPTION**

**bhyveload** is used to load a FreeBSD guest inside a bhyve(4) virtual machine.

**bhyveload** is based on loader(8) and will present an interface identical to the FreeBSD loader on the user's terminal. This behavior can be changed by specifying a different OS loader.

The virtual machine is identified as *vmname* and will be created if it does not already exist.

**OPTIONS**

The following options are available:

**-c** *cons-dev*

*cons-dev* is a tty(4) device to use for **bhyveload** terminal I/O.

The text string "stdio" is also accepted and selects the use of unbuffered standard I/O. This is the default value.

**-d** *disk-path*

The *disk-path* is the pathname of the guest's boot disk image.

**-e** *name=value*

Set the FreeBSD loader environment variable *name* to *value*.

The option may be used more than once to set more than one environment variable.

**-h** *host-path*

The *host-path* is the directory at the top of the guest's boot filesystem.

**-l** *os-loader*

Specify a different OS loader. By default **bhyveload** will use */boot/userboot.so*, which presents a standard FreeBSD loader.

**-m** *memsize[K/k/M/m/G/g/T/t]*

*memsize* is the amount of memory allocated to the guest.

The *memsize* argument may be suffixed with one of **K**, **M**, **G** or **T** (either upper or lower case) to indicate a multiple of Kilobytes, Megabytes, Gigabytes or Terabytes respectively.

*memsize* defaults to 256M.

- C** Include guest memory in the core file when **bhyveload** dumps core. This is intended for debugging an OS loader as it allows inspection of the guest memory.
- S** Wire guest memory.

## EXAMPLES

To create a virtual machine named *freebsd-vm* that boots off the ISO image */freebsd/release.iso* and has 1GB memory allocated to it:

```
bhyveload -m 1G -d /freebsd/release.iso freebsd-vm
```

To create a virtual machine named *test-vm* with 256MB of memory allocated, the guest root filesystem under the host directory */usr/images/test* and terminal I/O sent to the nmdm(4) device */dev/nmdm1B*

```
bhyveload -m 256MB -h /usr/images/test -c /dev/nmdm1B test-vm
```

## SEE ALSO

bhyve(4), nmdm(4), vmm(4), bhyve(8), loader(8)

## HISTORY

**bhyveload** first appeared in FreeBSD 10.0, and was developed at NetApp Inc.

## AUTHORS

**bhyveload** was developed by Neel Natu <[neel@FreeBSD.org](mailto:neel@FreeBSD.org)> at NetApp Inc with a lot of help from Doug Rabson <[dfr@FreeBSD.org](mailto:dfr@FreeBSD.org)>.

## BUGS

**bhyveload** can only load FreeBSD as a guest.