

**NAME**

**conscontrol** - control physical console devices

**SYNOPSIS**

**conscontrol** [**list**]

**conscontrol** **mute on** | **off**

**conscontrol** **add** | **delete** *console*

**conscontrol** **set** | **unset** *console*

**DESCRIPTION**

The **conscontrol** utility is used to examine and modify the physical devices which back the virtual console devices. If no arguments (or only the **list** command) are specified, the current console settings are shown.

There are two types of logical consoles; a high level console which is represented by */dev/console*, and a low level console. The low level console is used for kernel `printf(9)` and `ddb(4)` debugger support, while the high level console is used by user programs like `syslogd(8)`. Multiple device support is implemented only for the low level console; the high level console is set to the first device in the console list.

Multiple console support may be invoked by passing the kernel the **-D** flag from the boot loader, or by using **conscontrol** to change the list of console devices after the system has booted.

The following options are available:

**add** | **delete** *console*

Add or delete a physical device from the logical console. The device must support low-level console operations. Adding a device will place it at the front of the list of console devices; the first device is used for the high level console.

The *console* argument is the name of a console device in */dev*; the name of the directory may be omitted.

**mute on** | **off**

Change the state of console muting. All console output is suppressed when console muting is **on**.

**set** | **unset** *console*

Set or unset the virtual console. When unset, output from the system, such as the kernel `printf(9)`, always goes out to the real main console. When set, it goes to another. This is an interface to the `tty ioctl TIOCCONS`.

**SEE ALSO**

syscons(4), tty(4), vt(4), boot(8), loader(8)

**HISTORY**

The **conscontrol** utility first appeared in FreeBSD 5.0.

**AUTHORS**

Jonathan Lemon