

Background.

Ubuntu 9.10 installed grub 1.97~4Beta as the default bootloader. While dual boot installs seem to generally be OK, problems with setting up multiple boot systems have been reported.

Rather than try to instantly learn a whole new way of setting up grub it is possible to revert to the simpler but still quite adequate grub 0.97 (“legacy” grub).

For more information about grub 2, which is a complete rewrite of legacy grub, see the GNU grub wiki at <http://grub.enbug.org>.

From the latest Grub2 draft manual ..

“GRUB 1 works great for most things, and will for some time to come. This version is called GRUB 2 because you should think twice about upgrading (because it's in development), and twice about rebooting (because it has a new config system).”

Significant changes have been made for Grub 2, taking advantage of the rewrite to make grub more flexible and capable. For example, numbering now starts at 1, not 0.

Example of a simple Grub2 configuration file

```
# Timeout for menu
set timeout=10
# Set default boot entry as Entry 0
set default=0
# Entry 0 - Load Linux kernel
menuentry "My Linux Kernel on (hd0,1)" {
    set root=(hd0,1)
    linux /vmlinuz root=/dev/hda1
    initrd /initrd
}
# Entry 1 - Chainload another bootloader
menuentry "Chainload my OS" {
    set root=(hd0,3)
    chainloader +1
}
```

Legacy Grub menu.lst

```
# Timeout for menu
Timeout=15
# Set default entry as Entry 0
default=0
# Entry 0 - Load Linux kernel
title My Linux Kernel on (hd0,0)
    root (hd0,0)
    kernel /vmlinuz root=/dev/hda1
    initrd /initrd
# Entry 1 - Chainload another
bootloader
title Chainload my OS
    rootnoverify (hd0,2)
    chainloader +1
```

Downgrading to legacy Grub

(reference - <http://brettshaffer.com/blog/linux/downgrade-grub-2/>)

Although some steps can be done using synaptic, you will need to use the command line. Here, the command line is used for all steps.

Step 1 – check which version of grub is installed.

Open a terminal and enter the command ..

```
$ dpkg -l | grep grub
```

```
ii  grub-common          1.97~beta4-1ubuntu4.1  
GRand Unified Bootloader, version 2 (common  
ii  grub-pc              1.97~beta4-1ubuntu4.1  
GRand Unified Bootloader, version 2 (PC/BIOS  
$
```

Note: there is no reference to grub2, which is a meta package and seems to be deleted by the installer.

Step 2 – safety backup of grub2 files (optional)

Use the sudo command to get to a shell with root privileges ..

```
$ sudo bash
```

These 3 commands will create a backup of the grub2 files ..

```
# cp /etc/default/grub /etc/default/grub2.old
```

```
# cp -R /etc/grub.d /etc/grub2.d.old
```

```
# cp -R /boot/grub /boot/grub2.old
```

Step 3 - remove Grub2

Use apt-get to completely remove the Grub 2 packages listed in Step 1..

```
# apt-get purge grub-common grub-pc
```

NB: After you remove Grub2, your computer will be unbootable until you have installed another bootloader, and there will be files left in /boot/grub which can be deleted as you have a backup.

Step 4 - Install legacy Grub (version 0.97)

Use apt-get to install grub

```
# apt-get install grub
```

Notes - You may see a message about installing extra packages, namely grub-common. This will be OK.

Step 5 – Setting up legacy Grub

```
# update-grub
```

This will generate menu.lst Tab to “Yes” when prompted.

```
# grub-install /dev/sdX
```

This will create stage1 and stage 2 files in /boot/grub, and install grub in the MBR. Use the correct letter to replace X, eg/. /dev/sda

Step 6 - “lock” the grub version to 0.97

```
# echo “grub hold” | dpkg --set-selections
```

This command will prevent grub being updated to a later version automatically.

Step 7 – Reboot to test your work.