

# systemd-boot Failed to mount /efi [solved]

After a recent update using `eos-update --aur` I rebooted my machine and found myself only able to boot into emergency mode.

For boot, my devices uses systemd-boot. I spent some time searching around figuring out what the issue could possibly be.

## Smoking Gun

`uname -a` yielded a response of `6.18.8-arch2-1`

Comparing that with `pacman -Q kernel` yields a response of `6.18.9-arch1-2`

## Diagnosis

Somehow my kernel versions got out of date.

## Resolution

This resolution differs from Edmund Goodman's linked post slightly, but his work was crucial for figuring out how to get into the encrypted drive.

## Boot from live USB

If you do not have a drawer of live USBs, follow the [options](#) provided by EndeavorOS.

## Connect to the internet

Connecting via the GUI connection manager should suffice. You will need this for redownloading the package.

## Identify your drives

```
lsblk -f
```

Example output:

```
nvme0n1
├─nvme0n1p1                vfat          FAT32          B3E1-
C4A9                      1.8G         9% /efi
├─nvme0n1p2                crypto_LUKS 2            e2a1b3c4-d5e6-
4f78-9a0b-c1d2e3f4a5b6
|  └─luks-e2a1b3c4-d5e6-4f78-9a0b-c1d2e3f4a5b6 ext4          1.0     endeavouros f1e2d3c4-b5a6-
4987-8654-321fedcba987  673.3G     17% /
└─nvme0n1p3                crypto_LUKS 2            a9b8c7d6-e5f4-
4321-b0a9-8765fedc4321
    └─luks-a9b8c7d6-e5f4-4321-b0a9-8765fedc4321 swap          1       swap       1a2b3c4d-5e6f-
4789-a0b1-c2d3e4f5a6b7          [SWAP]
```

## Open Your Encrypted Drive

```
sudo cryptsetup open /dev/nvme0n1p2 luks_root
```

## Mount the Drives

```
sudo mount /dev/mapper/luks_root /mnt
```

```
sudo mount /dev/nvme0n1p1 /mnt/boot
```

## Root Into the Drive

```
sudo arch-chroot /mnt
```

## Reinstall the Linux Kernel

```
pacman -S linux
```

Note: at some point I had cleared pacman cache of the linux header. It is not clear if that was a necessary step but it did happen during the troubleshooting that led to this.

# Validate the Kernel Was Installed

```
kernel-install list
```

Example output:

```
VERSION      HAS KERNEL PATH
6.18.9-arch1-2    ✓ /usr/lib/modules/6.18.9-arch1-2
```

## Exit & Reboot

```
exit
```

```
reboot
```

You might see multiple versions you can boot, choose the one with the version that should load. After rebooting, running `kernel-install list` should only present the version that was just installed.

# Theory of What Happened

I am not 100 percent confident that this is exactly what happened, but in trying to make a model of what happened this is the best estimation that can be provided:

Pacman installed an updated kernel, the hook to trigger `dracut` (which generates the initramfs) was successful; however, the hook to trigger `kernel-install` which copies the kernel and initramfs to a version directory and also adds the boot loader entry appears to have failed.

## References

<https://edmundgoodman.co.uk/posts/2024/fixing-endeavouros-boot-failures/>

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