

AIX loopback devices

In AIX 6100-04-00-0943 (6.1 TL4) support for a loopback device was added to AIX and VIOS (PowerVM). This device can be used as a block device to provide access to file images.

The file to be mounted can be an ISO image, a disk image, a filesystem image or a logical volume image. These images can be mounted into the filesystem tree via the `/usr/sbin/loopmount` command.

For example, by attaching a CD-ROM ISO image to a loopback device and mounting it, you can access the image the same way that you can access the CD-ROM device.

For that purpose I normally use the following little shell helper script:

[lmount.sh](#)

```
1. #!/bin/sh
2.
3. if [ $# != 2 ] ; then
4.     echo "lmount.sh <ISO-Image> <mnt-point>"
5.     exit -1
6. fi
7.
8. echo "Trying to loop-mount $1 at $2 ..."
9.
10. /usr/sbin/loopmount -i $1 -o "-V cdrfs -o ro" -m $2
11.
12. if [ $? != 0 ] ; then
13.     echo "FAILED!"
14.     exit -1
15. fi
```

More details can be found here:

- https://www.ibm.com/support/knowledgecenter/ssw_aix_71/com.ibm.aix.cmds3/loopmount.htm
- <http://www-01.ibm.com/support/docview.wss?uid=isg3T1012661>

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