

Re: Windows multiboot (aaargh!)

Source: <http://linux.derkeiler.com/Mailing-Lists/Debian/2003-09/2240.html>

From: cr (cr_at_orcon.net.nz)

Date: 09/14/03

To: debian-user@lists.debian.org

Date: Sun, 14 Sep 2003 21:23:47 +1200

On Sunday 14 September 2003 12:39, Pigeon wrote:

> *On Sat, Sep 13, 2003 at 04:33:22PM +1200, cr wrote:*

> > *On Thursday 11 September 2003 09:38, Pigeon wrote:*

> >

> > *(preliminaries snipped)*

> > *The Linux boot floppy is a bit more tricky. I thought I'd better first delete the existing Linux partitons on the drive using cfdisk rather than DOS fdisk. So I tried adding cfdisk to a spare Debian Woody boot floppy, but it got 'kernel panic' when run. Tried same with a RH boot floppy and it worked OK (I think the hard drive had RH7.3 on it, IIRC), but got 'kernel panic' when I used it after wiping the hard drive. Obviously Deb and RH boot floppies are just intended for booting the system on the hard drive.*

>

> *Dunno about RH; the Debian one seems to want you to supply it with a root filesystem from somewhere, either your existing installation or a second floppy.*

I'd say RH does exactly the same.

It'd be nice to have a self-contained floppy with just the basic componenets needed to boot a Linux system, so there's room to add a few utilties of ones choice. I've done that with my DOS floppy. But reading the HOWTOs, it seems that creating a Linux boot disk is a rather more complex procedure.

I guess the workaround is to use one of the pre-made disks like tomsrftb, and just put my own utilities on a floppy that I can mount afterwards. At least, unlike DOS-booted-from-a-floppy, I imagine the Linux rescue systems don't constantly nag you to "Insert disk with COMMAND.COM in Drive A:" or whatever the Linux equivalent would be ;)

> *For blanking things, I use dd; to zap the whole MBR*

>

> *dd if=/dev/zero of=/dev/hdx bs=512 count=1*

>

> *and for just the partition table*

>

Debian-User: Re: Windows multiboot (aaargh!)

> *dd if=/dev/zero of=/dev/hdx bs=1 seek=446 count=64*

> > *I tried Googling for how to create a boot*