

Re: New to Linux

Source: <http://linux.derkeiler.com/Mailing-Lists/Fedora/2004-07/0882.html>

From: Joe(theWordy)Philbrook (*jtwdyp_at_ttlc.net*)

Date: 07/05/04

To: fedora-list@redhat.com

Date: Sun, 4 Jul 2004 18:06:42 -0400

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It would appear that on Jul 3, Andrew Konosky did say:

- > *Okay, thanks for the information. I'm downloading it right now and getting*
- > *some amazing download speed I never dreamed about in Windows. (376kbps!). On*
- > *the download site it has the 4 isos then 4 more source isos. I have plenty of*
- > *blank CD's, so I'll download all 4 regular cds.*
- >
- > *Since I have a large hard drive, I will probably repartition and give Windows*
- > *40gb and Linux the other 40gb. Since I have downloaded Suse, would it be*
- > *possible to install Fedora and Suse alongside windows and have a "tri" boot*
- > *config, or would this just be a waste of time?*

Welcome to the wonderful world of multi-booting Andrew,

Not only is it very doable to tri boot, but there are some advantages.

I've got my P3 set up for 4 working linux distributions plus win98 & DrDos... I don't bother much with the non-linux ones, but they are there... Of the 4 linux I've currently got Mdk 9.1, FC1, FC2, and something called mepis. Which is a fairly young distro that installs from a live CD.

If your going to tri boot I'd agrees with the other poster that unless you have a huge amount of data on it, 40 gig is more than I'd let windows have. I'd recommend something closer to a 10gig win and (2) 30gig linux partitions.

Or better yet, 9gig for windows, split the next gig between a boot partition and a swap partition, then perhaps (2) 30 gig or (3) 20 gig linux partitions. You will need to do a bit of reading on the grub or lilo bootloaders. Since your trying Fedora, I'd suggest that grub is better supported and arguably easier to learn...

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About that boot partition, it's just another small linux partition with boot images etc on it. You don't "have" to do it that way, indeed at first it would be easier to keep each linux in it's own partition and let grub use a /boot directory from one of them...

And set the other /boot directory with backup images... possibly setting one linux's boot loader to put grub's boot strap on the mbr, and making the other use a grub or lilo floppy. Either way, the idea is that you don't want an abnormal shutdown to corrupt your only copy of the boot images, so you want at least one set of them to not be "mounted" all the time.

But if you multi-boot for long you will likely want to use a boot partition, and will find it much easier if you reserved a small partition for it before you install linux systems on the rest of the harddrive. (true there are repartitioners that can "usually" resize a partition without destroying whats on it but, YMMV...)

Now I know someone said there isn't much advantage in multi-booting unless you just like to play with different systems. But consider what happens if you manage to "break" your only working linux installation. Or if an update makes it unable to burn archive cd's etc... OK it would still be possible to boot the install cd in rescue mode. But you could have to do the repairs with different tools or configurations than you might normally use. I always like to have a fully configured spare linux just waiting for me to select it from the boot loader. That way I'm not afraid to experiment with my usual linux, because I know that if I break one, I can use another to fix it with all my favorite customizations in place, or go to on-line for help with.

In any case, with at least 2 linux, you can always keep one unchanged (and working) while you update, or replace the other. Makes shopping for a favorite distro much nicer.

I noticed in the other thread that someone jumped on you for not noticing that a similar question had just been asked. Don't let it bother you. But do learn from it. The fedora mailing list is a wonderful resource. But it can get really swamped with repeating questions at times. Many of the wonderful, helpful, experts who hang out here and offer very valuable help for free, have asked that people "try" to find and read the documentation, make an attempt at searching the mailing list archives for similar problems. And maybe even do a google search to see if you can't find at least some of the answers you need before posting a question here. Then if you can't find the answer, or if it didn't work for you. Then when you ask here tell them where you looked, and what you still don't understand. When they see that you are actually putting effort into it, the experts that hang out here will be more than happy to work even harder at helping you than you might think.

Most of these generous souls get a lot of satisfaction out of helping anyone that they perceive is putting an effort into it. And more than a

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few of them get frustrated with the ones who don't or won't try...

Good luck! have fun! And read a *LOT*...

When you get stuck, ask. there is help here...

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| --- ___  
| <0> <-> Joe (theWordy) Philbrook  
| ^ J(tWdy)P  
| ~\___/~ <<jtwdyp@ttlc.net>>
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