

Disc Partitioning for Multi-Boot (long)

Source: <http://linux.derkeiler.com/Mailing-Lists/Fedora/2005-08/0125.html>

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To: For users of Fedora Core releases <fedora-list@redhat.com>

Some of this may be off-topic, some on-topic.
I'll spare you the gory details of how we got here.

Here's the hardware setup:

Main board with 512MB RAM.

3 1/2" floppy drive

24x DVD/CD reader

48x CD writer

80GB WD drive, partitioned as 40GB FAT32 + 40GB unallocated

80GB WD drive, partitioned as 80GB NTFS

Win 98 is happily running in the FAT32 partition.

We need to get the data off of the NTFS partition.

I started up Knoppix, and mounted the FAT32 r/w, and the NTFS r/o, created a directory named "oldd" on the FAT32, and did a massive

```
cp -pr /mnt/hdb1/* .
```

which ran for about 3 hours. Then I did a

```
diff /mnt/hdb1 .
```

and between 6000 and 7000 files miscompare, due to having different names. They differ in the case of the file names. It took 1 1/2 hours to run, so I guess about 1/2 of the data did not get checked. I tried

```
diff --ignore-file-names-case /mnt/hdb1 .
```

and got exactly the same results. Hmm. The man page for diff under FC2 and Knoppix apparently differ. FC2 doesn't list that option...

So, ok. I'll try making a script which will do renames, and then go back and do more diffs. And BTW, the names probably need to be fixed, anyway.

First question: How better to get that data from the second drive?

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I've considered using tar and WinZip. Would that be better?

But the next question is how to partition the drive so Windows and Linux can co-exist on the first drive?

The fdisk supplied with Windows 98 cannot manage that disc. Win98 apparently can live happily in something already formatted for it, but cannot manage the large partitions itself. A utility from Western Digital can manage the partitions, and even format a FAT32 disc and make it bootable. But if it is run on a drive, it insists on wiping the MBR. (That's how we got Win98 on that large partition.) Hmm, maybe use dd to lift the MBR, use the WD utility to repartition, then merge in the bootstrap from the original? I looked at parted but do not feel confident in my ability to use it. I'm not very familiar with dd, either.

She'd like to make additional partitions in the 40GB of unallocated space on the first drive, and make a multi-boot system which can boot several versions of Linux for try-out. She's thinking about Red Hat (try Fedora and if she likes it, she'd buy RHEL), Debian, Knoppix, Mandrake, Suse, Puppy, and CentOS. She'd try two or so at a time, and when she found one she likes, she'd go with it.

I have the FC2 discs here, and the FC4 ISOs, and don't mind getting the FC3 ISOs if they might be better, so the second question I want to pose is

How shall I make a multi-boot system out of that machine, with the possibility of booting at least Windows 98 and two versions of Linux concurrently? I must either not use the second disc, or I must reliably recover the information from it before using it. Also, when a version of Linux has been decided upon, how to re-partition and get maximum use out of the disc with Win98 and Linux on it? I'm strongly considering putting /home on a separate partition. Can we do that in such a manner that different versions of Linux can remount it later without having to save/restore the data there? How about swap?

I'm pretty sure Anaconda can handle what she wants, but I'm not so familiar with Anaconda, either. I'm an old hand at *NIX machines from the development standpoint, but not with the admin side of things, and those things differ from system to system anyway.

Third question: Her main use for the Linux boot will be web page management. She has tried Open Office, and several other packages which run on Linux, and has not found one with all the features she wants. Apparently there is a package for WinXP which is very nice, and which she likes. Don't ask me, I know nothing about Web Pages. Are there some really nice web management / HTML editors available for Linux? I found Amaya, but it really couldn't install properly when running from CDROM (Puppy).

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She doesn't want to become a "fiddler" again, though she has, in past done that. She'd like to "install and go" now. Her interest in computers is now more on the "tool" side than the "hobby/fun" side.

Mike

```
--  
p="p=%c%s%c;main(){printf(p,34,p,34);}";main(){printf(p,34,p,34);}  
This message made from 100% recycled bits.  
I can explain it for you, but I can't understand it for you.  
I speak only for myself, and I am unanimous in that!  
--  
fedora-list mailing list  
fedora-list@redhat.com  
To unsubscribe: http://www.redhat.com/mailman/listinfo/fedora-list
```