

Re: howmany partitions per disk possible?

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On Monday 11 September 2006 15:08, Tony Arnold wrote:

fdisk scares me rigid! There seems to be plenty of scope for wiping the whole disk if one is not careful, but thanks for the tip.

Not really. Stories of vast amounts of unlimited power vested in all users with the ability to destroy entire systems at the push of a single button are vastly overrated :-)

Windows's fdisk continually spits out dire warnings, enough to scare even the old-hands, and I suppose some of this comes across to Linux fdisk. The truth is that fdisk is well-behaved and doesn't pester you with nonsense. Nothing is written to disk till you engage the magic "w" function. Until then, you can change anything you want to see how it looks and none of it is permanent. The only thing to understand is that fdisk presents the disk as a series of cylinders and partitions must start/stop at these boundaries. Everything else is very logical and makes complete sense.

In the mean time, I've taken the coward's way out and re-installed. Given my partitions were peculiar anyway (one extended containing two logicals, no primaries at all), it was probably the right thing to do.

For future reference, the total complete entire purpose and reason for the existence of primary/extended/logical partitions is a hack to get around yet another microsoft screw-up. MSDOS 2 misjudged how many partitions people would want to have and the current insane partition structure is still the same patch that worked around that. There is no correct way to structure these things, and Linux couldn't care less what type of partitions you use, whether logical or primary they can all be used and be booted from. Some other OSes do care about this, Linux ain't one of 'em :-)

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alan

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