

# Re: Dual boot on system with hidden recovery partition

---

*Source:* <http://linux.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/alt.os.linux.suse/2007-04/msg00445.html>

---

- *From:* Bill <[spamtrap@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:spamtrap@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Sun, 15 Apr 2007 12:59:48 -0700
- 

In article <[slrnf24et0.6fk.dcmoose@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:slrnf24et0.6fk.dcmoose@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)>, [dcmoose@xxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:dcmoose@xxxxxxxxxxxxx) says...

ray wrote:

On Sun, 15 Apr 2007 13:30:52 +0000, DC wrote:

I have an installation question. Hopefully someone can help me...

I wish to dual boot linux with Windows XP on a Dell laptop.

The laptop has a hidden recovery partition in lieu of recovery CDs.

If I install linux to the extended partition, will writing GRUB to the MBR preclude me from doing a recovery of Windows XP at a later date?

The laptop does not have a floppy drive. What are my options?

Thank you.

'hidden' from whom? I believe that the Linux partitioning tools will find it and act accordingly. Should be no problem. Why not boot the Gparted Live CD and see?

I have Partition Magic installed. I can see it just fine. Companies like HP/Compaq and Dell (this is a Dell Latitude laptop) don't supply recovery CDs with their laptops anymore — they put a recovery partition containing the os and software on a hidden partition on the HDD instead). What I want to know is the correct procedure to follow to make this a dual boot system while ensuring that my ability to later recover the Windows XP os from this partition will be unaffected.

Re: Dual boot on system with hidden recovery partition

I couldn't tell you about a Dell, but I just helped a friend set up a HP laptop and there was a program on it to make up a set of restore CDs < it took nine CDs BTW > in case the restore partition on the hard drive or the hard drive itself failed. Of course they only set your laptop back to the state it was in which you bought it. You might check your Dell documentation to see if you have something similar.

Another way to go would be to clone your hard drive to another hard drive using a program like Acronis True Image 10. Then you would have a recent backup of your hard drive to fall back on in case you royally honk up your present hard drive.

Bill

—

Gmail and Google Groups. This century's answer to AOL and WebTV.

.