

## Re: Problem with hard drive and partitions

**Source:** <http://linux.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/alt.os.linux/2003-12/1169.html>

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**From:** Michael C. (*mcsuper5\_at\_usol.com*)

**Date:** 12/20/03

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On Tue, 16 Dec 2003 19:44:32 +0000,

MikeyD <m\_donaghy50@hotmail.com> wrote:

> -----BEGIN PGP SIGNED MESSAGE-----

> Hash: SHA1

>

>> I installed Linux (Mandrake 8.0) using the free space in my windows  
>> partition. The problem is that I cannot see a drive unit assigned to the  
>> Linux partition from Windows. Windows thinks that all the space in the  
>> hard drive is available to it, but this is not true.

>>

>

> I think it may think that the whole thing should be a fat partition. You may  
> have to either shrink it with parted or reformat if that's the case. You  
> can try and salvage as much as possible from your linux partition but  
> you'll probably have to reformat that too.

If the disk was defraged first before changing the partitions and windows hasn't been writing to the disk the linux partition may be fine. The fdisk man page has a warning that MS format doesn't get its size from the partition table unless the first sector of the partition is zeroed. I've never used parted, so I don't know if it modifies the FAT.

Assuming you've made a backup of your windows partition:

>From linux

```
dd if=/dev/zero of=/dev/hda1 bs=512 count=1
```

```
fsck /dev/hda5
```

If you have more than a small number of errors you might want to reinstall linux to be safe.

>From 98

```
format c: /s
```

then restore your backup.

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You'll need to use a rescue disk or boot floppy to start linux and reinstall grub/lilo.

Michael C.

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mcsuper5@usol.com <http://mcsuper5.freeshell.org/>  
Registered Linux User #303915 <http://counter.li.org/>