

## Re: A linux alternative to the "ghost" programs?

**Source:** <http://linux.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/alt.os.linux/2004-06/3154.html>

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**From:** Cubic ([cubic\\_at\\_fjomp.com](mailto:cubic_at_fjomp.com))

**Date:** 06/30/04

Date: Wed, 30 Jun 2004 01:14:01 +0200

Ay ay ay, seems like I have stumbled into elitist or "crack down the n00bs" country. I'd just like to say that the reason I don't know what you're asking me, is because I come from a windows environment and I'm slowly easing my way into using linux. yes, I'm a "luser", but I'm willing to learn. Even through your a bit "offensive" way of answering, I got a bit of the info I wanted, so I'll thank you for that. :)

On Wed, 30 Jun

2004 00:28:28 +0200, P.T. Breuer wrote:

> Cubic <[cubic@fjomp.com](mailto:cubic@fjomp.com)> wrote:  
>> I'm looking for an alternative to the "ghost" programs, to make a mirror  
>> image of my current drive on a larger drive that I'm planning to buy  
>> really soon.  
>  
> And what exactly is wrong with "cp"? Man cp.  
>  
>> The entire problem I have is, I want four partitions(one  
>> win98 partition, one ext2 and an extended partition containing one swap  
>> partition and another ext2) over to the other drive(most probably 200  
>> gigs in size),  
>  
> SO what's the problem?  
>  
>> with the bootrecord(I have BootMagic running on the MBR and  
>  
> You can't copy bootrecords just like that! They don't "make sense" out  
> of their context. You'll have to rewrite the bootrecord the way you  
> want it on the new medium. Nobody knows for example if you want the new  
> master boot record to point to the old partition records, or to the new  
> ones. Rerun lilo.

That was what I was wondering, mostly. If there existed a way of preserving the bootrecord of the drive. Well, I had the lilo part down, I will just have to boot into windows with a partition-magic rescue disk or something(Oh, I know I could use knoppix or something, but I'd rather keep Bootmgic, I'm a luser, all I can say)

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>  
>> *lilo running on the root ext2 drive) and all, since the current drive(30  
>> gig)is to be used elsewhere. So basically, I want the 200 gig to be a  
>> mirror image of the 30 gig after the operation.*  
>  
> *Well, it can't be. Sure, the file systems can be mirrors, but not the  
> disks. They're not the same size.*  
>  
>> *I know that this'll make  
>> for 170 gig to be unused, but I'll just add/resize partitions with a  
>  
> Oh – you want equal partitions! Why didn't you say so? And what is your  
> problem with cp? Or tar? Or rsync? Or even kernel soft raid1?*  
Heh, reason why I asked was to know the names to some such programs, and  
you gave them to me. Of course, not in the friendliest of ways ;)  
Thank you again.

>  
>> *I've heard talk about a dd program that I could use like "dd  
>> if=/dev/hda of=/dev/hdb"  
>  
> That would copy all of one disk to another. You don't want that. And  
> it's not different from "cp /dev/hda /dev/hdb!"  
>  
>> ( I have also verified that I have it installed).  
>  
> Is that some kind of surprise? dd has been a basic unix utility for the  
> last 30 years.*

I didn't know that.

>  
>> *Is it really  
>> that easy?*  
>  
> *What is wrong with using cp?*  
>  
>> *Or do I have to add more options and lots of crazyness? Do you  
>  
> Whatever you like. dd is only a version of cp in which you can control  
> the transfer blocksize, and other minor things!*  
>  
>> *know of any alternative, easier to use(possibly safer) programs?*  
>  
> *What drugs are you on? Why don't you just make a filesystem on your  
> target partition, and copy "cp -a") one file system to another? What's  
> all this fuss about?*

>  
> *Peter*  
Mostly, the fuss comes from me not knowing the full potential of certain  
commands, like the oh-so holy cp command. I mean, I've read the man page  
at least three times, I still didn't suspect you could do something like  
"cp -a /dev/hda /dev/hdb". Then again, it might have been the molded  
cheeze doodles I had for breakfast. Take your choice =)

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