

Re: CDROM with raid.

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Tom <tombro@usa.net> wrote:

: Good Folks,

: Not sure if this is the correct location for this question, so please
: forgive me if I'm wrong.

: I am setting up a Linux server with raid1.
: To do this, I will put a 200G drive as master on each IDE controller. So far
: so good!

: How do I get a bootable CDROM connected.
: I understand performance will be degraded if I use both channels of the
: controllers.(for an IDE CDROM)

: If I get a scsi card, I can connect a scsi CDROM, maybe a tape drive or ZIP.

: But will I be able to boot off of the CDROM as needed (eg: loading FC3).

: Thanks for your advice. Tom

A number of solutions:

* Can you boot off USB? Some MB can. If so, put your CD drive in a USB enclosure. Nice thing is you can take it away and use it somewhere else, when it's not needed.

* Get a cheap PCI IDE controller and put the CDROM on it.

I tried this. Didn't work all that well – didn't always boot; the BIOS with the card were not very compatible with my other HW. This could work in your setup, though. Make sure you can return the card if not, just in case. It's getting hard to find nice IDE cards these days – everyone is moving to SATA (see below).

* Get SATA to IDE adapters for your drives. Get SATA card, or use on-board SATA, then to run your disk drives. Now your IDE ports are free for the CD. This is what I have done and it works great (highpoint SATA-IDE adapters, \$25 or so each). Side benefit, no more IDE cabling

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problems (-> disk errors – the SATA->IDE converter has very nice output and the disks love it :-)) Second benefit, my MB can boot off anything connected (I use the previously unused SATA ports).

* You could get SCSI. I don't know how easy it would be to boot off SCSI CDROM with IDE hard disks connected. Never tried. I do know it's a @%%#! pain to boot off a SCSI hard drive with IDE drives connected. I gave up on that one, eventually ...

You are right, you don't want the CD on a disk connection. Bad idea. If USB boot isn't possible you will have to add a card (or use other available ports or etc) to get more IDE ports one way or another. Avoid SCSI if possible – very expensive unless you get old stuff on e-bay.

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