

Re: CompactFlash IDE – not recognized

Source: <http://linux.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/comp.os.linux.embedded/2006-12/msg00124.html>

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Kapp wrote:

I am converting an old laptop into a digital picture frame. My thought was to create a small XP (nlite) with the apps I need (slideshow, wireless, vnc) on a hard drive and then copy it over to a CompactFlash which I would then replace the laptop harddrive with. I've got a nice tight version on a hard drive (under 500Mb) ready to put onto CF.

Problem: it doesn't appear that the BIOS I have will recognize the CF as a drive. I am using a 44-pin CF/IDE adapter I picked up on the internet. Using a desktop, I confirmed that the adapter works (of course I had to adapt IT to 40 pin IDE) and actually got the desktop to DOS boot from a formatted CF (two actually, a 1.0GB Sandisk and a 512MB PNY). Unfortunately, hooking it into the old laptop (DELL Inspiron 3500) the BIOS doesn't see it and thus fdisk gives me "no fixed disks present."

Are you running "fdisk" from a hard disk? It's not a good idea to have the CF sharing cable with a hard disk.

Questions: Anyone have any thoughts on how to get around this? Perhaps a different adapter? Am I lost for this laptop? I ensured it is the latest BIOS version (for this inspiron Rev A14). I can proceed with using a hard drive but the thought of using the CF really appeals to me. One thought I had as to why the BIOS is not recognizing it was whether it has to do with the CF card being marked as "removable". However, because it works on the newer desktop I wonder if this could be it. Other than that, my limited experience in these matters leaves me clueless!

You can try booting directly on this:

<http://cfd.linnix.com/sfide.html>

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