

Re: Lost MBR after windows installed

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Robert Taylor <rmtaylor@xxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

Greetings!

My difficulty is that the SuSE 10.2 MBR was hosed when I installed Win XP on the first SATA disk (sda1) and the SuSE partitions are on the second drive (sdb1, sdb2 ... sdb5). Since the MBR was originally on what is now sdb1 and the MBR is on the other drive there seems to be no way to fix this other than to "update" the system. Is

I can't quite see how that happened. I just installed WinXp onto a laptop with only a single hard disk, and after putting WinXP on the first partition, it rebooted the Linux that was on the other partitions without any problem at all.

You are saying that putting Win XP on one disk caused the `_other_` disk's data to be lost.

However, it appears there is more to this than you are saying. "The MBR was originally on what is now sdb1" suggests that what is now sdb1 used to be something else?? Such as, perhaps sda1? Did you add a disk, and move the original?

this correct? Doing a repair from install disk did not seem to work. The built in script kept telling me that it was trying to write to a disk that does not exist and failed during repeated attempts to fix this. Since the package checks seemed to see everything the original partitions are intact but the system seemed unable to rewrite the MBR to sda1.

Has anyone ever seen this before?

I'm not clear on what you had. It appears that what you

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currently have is WinXP installed on sda1 (are there other partitions?) and Linux on sdb with multiple partitions??.

The problem would be that WinXP has installed a boot loader into the MBR of sda, and with it you cannot boot Linux on sdb.

That's relatively easy to fix with a "rescue disk".

Obtain virtually any of the "live CD" distributions of Linux, and boot Linux from the CD. Get a shell command line (exactly how depends on which distribution) running as root. Then do approximately this:

```
disk -l # just for fun, look at all of your disk partitions
mkdir /u
```

```
# Assuming that sdb1 is the root partition of your Linux
# installed on sdb, and that all filesystems are ext3.
# Mount the essential partitions:
```