

Re: Trying to install Linux on a Win XP machine

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From: Adam McCarthy (*anonymous_at_privacy.net.invalid*)

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Date: Sat, 17 Sep 2005 22:35:24 -0400

Andrew Levin wrote:

> *Hello,*

>

> *Here is a post that I made to comp.os.linux.setup, which brought no replies.*

> *If anyone here is able to help me, that would be good, otherwise I will have*

> *to run windows for the foreseeable future. Thanks in advance.*

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> =====

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>

> *Hello,*

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>

> *I have been trying to install Linux (specifically, Slackware 9.1 and 10.1)*

> *on my new HP Windows XP machine, however, I have run into some problems.*

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> *I have 80 GB of hard drive space, and, knowing I have a 13-CD (!) set of*

> *recovery discs for Windows, have set out to try to run a dual boot with*

> *Linux.*

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>

> *I first turned to Hewlett-Packard online support, where the representative*

> *suggested that I remove the "recovery partition (a small secondary partition*

> *that is the first option to recover from lost or corrupt files for Windows*

> *or included applications)," and install my secondary operating system on*

> *that.*

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> *That I did, up until the last part. During the Slackware install, I was*

> *unable to make any changes with fdisk or cfdisk. The problems I got were*

> *along these lines:*

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> *- One program could not get a grip on the filesystem or partition table, and*

> *simply could not recognize *any* of the partitions on the hard drive, much*

> *less write new ones, and may have said something like unable to find DOS or*

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> *superblock or Sun or other partitions.*
>
>
> – *The other one simply said I did not have permission to write to the*
> *partition table, though it may have recognized some of the Windows data on*
> *the hard drive.*
>
>
> *After some frustration with this, I was able to get my hands on a copy of a*
> *Partition Magic–like program, "Partition Commander." That program took the*
> *MBR, which was not a problem. I tried to use the 'install new operating*
> *system' option which even had a picture of Tux the penguin for its icon, but*
> *gave me some non–descript error on that line. However, I was able to resize*
> *the Windows partitions to have them take up about half of the 80 gigs on the*
> *drive instead of all of it.*
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>
> *Additionally, I was able to install a number of ext3 partitions and a Linux*
> *Swap partition through this program, seemingly so I could move ahead with my*
> *Linux install. However, to my dismay, neither of the installations was able*
> *to recognize the Linux partitions (if one of the two, (c)fdisk even*
> *recognized the Windows partitions), and at fdisk was still unable to*
> *recognize any partitions or even a valid partitioning scheme on the drive.*
> *Therefore, I could not move forward with my Linux install.*
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> *I am somewhat ignorant about the low–level mechanics of hard drives, so I'd*
> *be pleased if you'd excuse me for that, but I figured having*
> *partition–commander taking up the MBR, and/or whatever else is at the very*
> *beginning of the drive, it might affect my chances of success w/ installing*
> *Linux positively. However, I had no such luck.*
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> *I have used linux for 6–7 years now, at least two years of which I was*
> *running a dual boot, and this is the first time I have run into something*
> *like this. It seems that Microsoft and/or HP have intentionally made it*
> *difficult to install secondary Operating Systems on the drive. I can't*
> *imagine they could make a proprietary hard drive, but indeed the sticker on*
> *the front of the machine (besides the Intel Inside one, (but that's another*
> *story :)) says "designed for Microsoft Windows XP."*
>
>
> *Could it be that there is installed on the hard drive, in the first areas,*
> *some kind of information or partitioning scheme that neither Linux nor*
> *Partition–Commander could completely understand? Fdisk was unable to even*
> *recognize the hard drive as having a valid DOS partition.*
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> *I've searched the web and Deja–Google for information on this, but no one*
> *seems to have this specific problem.*
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> *Any help would be very appreciated.*

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> *Thanks,*

> *Andrew L.*

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Why Slackware 9.1 and 10.1? Only 10.1 is needed.