

Re: Partitioning a back up drive--request for comments.

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On Mon, 21 Apr 2008 18:54:58 -0700, pureheart wrote:

Okay, I finally have my back-up drive. An Iomega 150 GB drive. I plugged in the firewire cable and it "just worked". (Mandriva 2007). It appears to be formatted vfat.

Is there any reason why I should not reformat it (at least most of it) ext2/3?

No.

Is there any reason I should *not* use ext3 over 2? This drive will not be routinely attached to the system, just weekly for backup purposes.

Yes. The ONLY difference between ext3 and 2 is that ext3 is journaled, which is a file index of sorts. Since you are only using the partition for storing backups, why waste the space storing the journal? Use ext2. If in the future, for some reason, you want to convert to ext3, you can.

I was thinking of two 65-70GB linux partitions and maybe 10-20 vfat in case I wanted to do any xfers for those kind of machines.

Sounds like a good idea. Just make sure that the vfat partition is of the FAT32 type, otherwise, you'll be limited to "short" file names, partition sizes, etc. Also, remember that you can have at most 4 Primary partitions under most contemporary computer BIOSes. If you need more, you have to use Logical ones.

Is there any reason to have more than one partition for my purposes?

Re: Partitioning a back up drive—request for comments.

Yes. If you want to backup Windows or transfer files between Windows and/or Linux machines, you'll need a filesystem they both can read and write to. Currently, that would be a FAT32 one. (Linux is still iffy writing to NTFS partitions.) And FAT32 does have limitations as compared to ext2/3. And there is the question of organization, for example, Linux backups on one partition, Windows backups on another, file transfers, etc. on another, etc. Less confusing than if you put everything on one partition.

Then I have to decide if I'm going to use 'tar' or 'rsync'. I've got plenty of room and compression does not seem to be critical, plus the firewire connection seems to have all the speed I'd need.

Since you are not backing up to another host or over a network, you don't need to use rsync. Tar will do just fine.

For backing up your Windows system, I suggest that you use a Windows archiving app. It will make life easier, if you need to do a recovery.

FWIW, I back up my home directory and data using only the 'copy' command "cp -a" to a separate drive/partition. No compression. No tar'ing, etc. Maintains the directory structure and everything. Makes it easy to replace a corrupted file with the backed up one. But for the "System," I use tar and compression.

Stef

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