

Re: Fun with Partition Tables and Zero's!!!

Source: <http://linux.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/comp.os.linux.setup/2003-07/0546.html>

From: jayjwa (jayjwa_at_hotmail.com)

Date: 07/15/03

Date: Mon, 14 Jul 2003 18:11:56 -0400

Eric Moors wrote:

- > <linux/windows trouble>
- >
- > *How did you repartition?*
- > *What steps did you take(starting from an empty disk)?*

I didn't really care about what was on the disk, so I just ended up putting Linux first, its swap after that, then last Windows, which would throw a fit and its fdisk was totally unusable at this point. I tried about any way you can think of: win 1st, linux 2nd, primary part's, logical part.s', any config at all. Really, I spent a good 6-7 hours just trying to get both of these guys to fit on one disk together. I've done win machines before, NT's, Macs, but Liux part is new, although I did my homework on how it sees HD's. On my sys, it is /dev/hde- new, clean. That I broke down (on one of many attempted config.'s) to /dev/hde1 : windows, so it wouldn't freak, then /dev/hde5 : Linux primary, /dev/hde6 : linux's swap. fdisk labeled these like this, and if you tried to write any other partition than /dev/hde (notice- no number after /hde) it would say it was writing and updating the table, but it never actually did it. There is a program called cfdisk which comes with this Linux too, it can cfdisk -P{r} /dev/hde, to show you the raw output of the partition table, and that was how I figured out that it had gone really wrong, as it had blanked over certain markers with zero's. A partition table has special markers in it that must be there for windows/dos to even think about looking at it (from my assembler programming days). Linux's fdisk isn't as picky, and if I didn't have this, I would be setting with a useless HD right now, (unless there's another fdisk that can do the same as Linux's).

- >
- > *It should have been :*
- >
- > *partition HDD for windows and linux*
- >
- > *install windows in hda1 (in windows terms C:)*

You'd think it would be /dev/hda, but it's really /dev/hde, I posted back a few days about my little mini-Linux distro being able to r/w to it. /hda is invalid on this system. I learned that trying to install Debian.

- >
- > #####
- > *if your windows is an OEM version, it may ignore the partitiontable*
- > *completely and occupy the entire disk. If so, use a FAT FS for windows*
- > *and use parted (or Partition Magic if you have it) to resize the*
- > *partition and the filesystem.*

>
Who knows what's in this box? I got it second hand (really, a good deal, because it was ahead of its time before, now just average) and have since replaced some stuff inside, and I've found a new case for it that'll let me fit my CD-RW in it (it kinda hangs out right now- had to do some plastic surgery to get it to fit) If you haven't guess yet, computers are mostly just fun and a hobby for me, I like to take them apart and fix them up, install new OS's and programs...so it's really no big loss if I spend a while trying to get Linux to run.

-Jay

- > *Create the partitions for linux. Again only if needed as this should*
- > *preferably be done before the first OS is installed.*
- > #####
- >
- > *install linux.*
- >
- > *Eric*