

Re: How do I make a boot disk so I can restore Grub?

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ANTant@zimage.com writes:

*>Hello. I need to install Windows 2000 SP4 on a second IDE HDD (hdb).
>Debian (Kernel v2.6.8) and its Grub is already installed on the first
>HDD (hda). I read that Windows will overwrite the MBR. I was told that
>I need to make a boot disk so I can restore MBR after Windows
>installation. How do I make a boot disk and be able to restore Grub on
>MBR. I hope I am saying this right since it is a bit technical for me.*

Are you using grub or lilo?

Under lilo, just do

```
lilo -b /dev/fd0
```

This will write the MBR to the floppy. After you have installed Windows, stick in that floppy and it will allow you to boot to the Linux.

Ie, it is using the mbr on that floppy rather than the MBR on the hard disk hda which has been destroyed by Windows.

I think you can do the same with grub but I do not know the commands.

(Looking at the man pages, it would seem to be

```
grub-install /dev/fd0
```

)

These procedures do NOT install a kernel onto the floppy. All they do is place the appropriate boot loader into the MBR on the floppy. You will still be booting off of the hard disk /boot directory.

For a rescue disk, probably the best thing to use is the installation CD.

>mkboot and lilo didn't work for me:

```
># mkboot
```

>Insert a floppy diskette into your boot drive, and press <Return>.

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> *Creating a lilo bootdisk...*
> *Kernel is at /boot/vmlinuz-2.6.8-1-k7 in /boot*
> *Matching initrd image is /boot/initrd.img-2.6.8-1-k7*
> *usr/sbin/mkboot: line 93: /etc/lilo.conf: No such file or directory*
> *Could not find the requested kernel in your*
> *current /etc/lilo.conf.*
> *The mkboot script can probably do better.*

> *Here is the proposed lilo.conf:*

> *# floppy lilo.conf*
> *boot = /dev/fd0*
> *install = boot.b*
> *map = map*
> *root = /dev/hda1*

> *You can install the boot-loader f*