

Accessing windoze partitions in Linux

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I've noticed that every now and then somebody asks how to access the win partitions while using Linux.

This is the little trick I came up with and now use during every setup to make them visible.

I don't know if it will make ntfs partitions visible. I've only used it on fat32.

If somebody else tries this and ntfs partitions do become visible, I'd be gratefull for the feedback.

Okay, here goes.....

Windoze appears to require that it be installed on the first partition of the hard drive. (A lame idea if ever there was one. ... Of course it can be moved after it has been installed using programs like PQmagic. In this instance there is no particular need so I won't go into that any further).

Lets say you have two win partitions C: & D: and the rest of your drive is for Linux.

So a simplified layout from the start of your drive might look like this.....

C: ----> D: ----> /root partition ----> /swap partition

When installing linux and you get to the graphical hard disk partitioner where you are shown all the existing partitions including those for windoze.

To setup Linux you create the root and swap as you would normaly using / to indicate the root partition and /swap for the swap partition.

Then you mark them both to be formatted before the OS install.

Before you proceed to the formatting, you need to indicate the mount point for the two windoze partitions.

The mount point "hack" is a mixture of both Unix and Dos commands.

So the mount point for C: drive will become /C:\

Do the same for any other win partitions too D: becomes /D:\ etc.

Be sure to mark them NOT for format and then continue with the rest of the Linux installation.

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It looks a bit weird but has worked for me using various versions of Red Hat and windoze.

When I'm the root user I can see the C & D partitions as folders included in the root directory where I can easily drag n drop files back and forth between both Linux & windoze eggs pee.

These folders/partitions and their contents are visible to any user but moving files is a problem. So you'll need to be the root for full control over the now visible partitions.

This should work for other distros too Good luck.