

## Re: XP Partition size

**Source:**

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**From:** Bob Lawn (*r.lawn\_at\_btinternet.com*)

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"Steve N." <me@here.now> wrote in message  
news:AT00d.11403\$w%6.7975@newsread1.news.pas.earthlink.net...

> *Alex Nichol wrote:*

>

>> *formerprof wrote:*

>>

>>

>>> *I just performed a clean reinstall of WinXP -- booted from the XP CD,  
>>> repartitioned and reformatted (NTFS) the disk. The repartition program  
>>> would not let me use the entire disk -- 6 or 8 mb of a 70 GB disk were  
>>> left out of the partition as free space.*

>>

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>> *The very first sector of a disk is reserved for its Master Boot Record  
>> and Partition tables. As Partitions are made to be aligned on Cylinder  
>> bounds (and don't try to make them different) the rest of the first  
>> cylinder is left unused, usually just under 8 MB.*

>>

>>

>

>

> *Sorry Alex, but this is incorrect.*

>

> *Partitions are defined by blocks, not cylinders.*

what sort of blocks would these be?

With some Un\*x OS's you can use sectors, cylinders and even megabytes; can't think of any MS OS which didn't use plain ol' megabytes.

> *The approx. 8MB of unpartitioned disk space is there because XP Pro*

> *installation reserves it for converting a Basic disk to a Dynamic disk.*

>

I recently wanted to convert a 50Gb disk from basic to dynamic and it only wanted 1 megabyte (which i didn't have).

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Partitions are aligned to cylinder boundaries, so if the first cylinder contains 1 or more used sectors, the first actual partition has to start at the beginning of the 2nd cylinder, thus leaving the rest of the first cylinder unused. Partitions also get rounded up (and down?) to the closest cylinder boundary.

Not so?

> *Steve*

>

bob