

RAID 0 and the formatting of Partitions – Crossposted

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Thank you for reading. I know this will seem fussy on my part but I like to see what I can do here.

I've set up a RAID 0 with a pair of Maxtor SATA drives on an Intel P4 mobo. It works very well. But some questions came to mind during the setup process.

I had to establish the striped **before** installing the OS. This involved going into the bios, selecting the drives for the stripe and interestingly enough selecting the *---size---* of the stripe i.e. one of 32, 64, or 128 kB! This is before either partitioning or formatting! The process turned two harddrives into one 'drive'.

So I choose 128 for performance then started the Windows install process.

Through the facilities Windows provides I was able to change the active partition and get Windows onto something other than a 4KB cluster formatted NTFS partition. Windows got installed on an NTFS partition formatted with 32KB clusters on my 128 KB striped RAID 0 'drive'.

To be honest, I do not have a clue as to what is going on. Does each 32KB cluster take up 128KB of harddrive space? Should I have arranged for the NTFS partiton to be formatted with 128KB clusters [the Disk Management option however only allows up to 64KB].

How are the 32KB clusters 'split' across the RAID 0 stripe?

Maybe I should have chosen a 64KB RAID 0 stripe then formatted NTFS with 64KB clusters?

BTW because the RAID 0 was set up **before** Windows was installed I didn't have to upgrade the disks to dynamic.

Any insights welcome – and thanks.

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