

Re: Partitioning for XP & Linux, How Much for What?

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From: Arno Wagner (*me_at_privacy.net*)

Date: 10/08/04

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In comp.sys.ibm.pc.hardware.storage chrisv <chrisv@nospam.invalid> wrote:

> Arno Wagner <me@privacy.net> wrote:

>> In comp.sys.ibm.pc.hardware.storage chrisv <chrisv@nospam.invalid> wrote:

>>> "Dave C." <mdupre@sff.net> wrote:

>>>

>>>> After Windows XP is fully installed, tested, and running fine, THEN install

>>>> linux. (I'd suggest Mandrake linux or redhat fedora)

>>>

>>>> You guys do know, of course, that the latest versions (2.6 kernel) of

>>>> Linux will render you Windows partition unbootable? This is well

>>>> documented. Happened to me with Fedora C2.

>>>

>>>> Huh? I have been using stock 2.6.x up to 2.6.9-rc2 without any

>>>> problem like this. Care to give a reference? Or is this just

>>>> a problem of Fedora?

> All 2.6 kernels have the issue, is my understanding.

I am completely unaware of this and since I have used a dual-boot machine since 1994, I should have noticed something, should I not? And if there is an issue I would like to know exactly what it is...

>>>> Of course, Windows will (intentionally) do the same to a

>>>> previously-installed Linux partition.

>>>

>>>> Not if you create the installation partition with Linux. At least

>>>> I have done this successfully several times.

> What do mean, exactly? Windows will replace the boot-loader every

> time, and not give an option to boot Linux, from what I've seen.

Oh, that is what you mean. But that is not real damage, just a small issue to be corrected with a Linux recovery CD/floppy or a grub

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boot-floppy. Takes two minutes and is routine for me. Note that this does nothing to the Linux partition. It is purely an MBR issue.

>>> *So, basically, you're screwed*
>>> *for dual-boot, unless you use same third-party boot manager (which I regard as kludges).*
>>
>> *"Huh?" again: Lilo and Grub do the job without problem. And they are not "third-party".*

> *"Lilo and Grub" are NOT what I consider "kludgy third party boot-loaders". In theory, the preferred way to get the dual-boot going is to install Windows first, then Linux, using Grub or Lilo to allow dual-booting.*

Or use the other way round and the Grub-floppy/Grub-CD/Knoppix CD to make Linux bootable again. Quite simple. Of course you have to understand some bootloader basics for this.

> *FC2 uses Grub by default, and there was no option to boot Windows. It was hosed. It's a documented fact that the 2.6 kernel has this problem.*

I still don't see any kernel issue here at all. 2.6 will not touch a partition unless told to. It may be that the FC2 installer is bad. I have observed no effects on Windows partitions with the Debian installer. And that Grub in FC2 has no option to boot Windows surely is FC2's fault and not that of Grub. You can still go to the Grub shell and boot Windows manually and as long as you can boot a linux from somewhere you can reinstall/maintain LILO.

I don't quite see your problem. Of course if you do not have any possibility to boot besides the HDD, you may be screwed. But then how did you perform the installation in the first place?

Arno

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For email address: lastname AT tik DOT ee DOT ethz DOT ch
GnuPG: ID:1E25338F FP:0C30 5782 9D93 F785 E79C 0296 797F 6B50 1E25 338F
"The more corrupt the state, the more numerous the laws" - Tacitus