

# RE: GPT Protective Partition – cannot assign drive letter or access it

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*Source:*

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Windows/microsoft.public.windows.server.general/2006-01/msg01644.html>

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- *From:* [Darrellg@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:Darrellg@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx) ("Darrell Gorter[MSFT]")
  - *Date:* Mon, 30 Jan 2006 21:17:51 GMT
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Hello,

With Windows Server 2003 SP1, x86 also supports GPT disks. These are only supported as data disks, not as boot or system disks.

You would configure them in Disk Management. Windows XP SP2 does not support GPT disks. The disks would have be configured as MBR disks, which would mean backing up all the data, converting the disk to MBR( the convert process erases all the data), then restoring the data.

Thanks,

Darrell Gorter[MSFT]

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<From: "Z Man" <z1z@xxxxxxxxxxxx>

<Subject: GPT Protective Partition – cannot assign drive letter or access it

<Date: Sun, 29 Jan 2006 21:45:55 -0500

<Lines: 18

<X-Priority: 3

<X-MSMail-Priority: Normal

<X-Newsreader: Microsoft Outlook Express 6.00.2900.2670

<X-MimeOLE: Produced By Microsoft MimeOLE V6.00.2900.2670

<X-RFC2646: Format=Flowed; Original

<Message-ID: <OdRIYdUJGHA.2696@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

<Newsgroups: microsoft.public.windows.server.general

<NNTP-Posting-Host: pool-71-251-13-237.nycmny.fios.verizon.net 71.251.13.237

<Path: TK2MSFTNGXA02.phx.gbl!TK2MSFTNGP08.phx.gbl!TK2MSFTNGP14.phx.gbl

<Xref: TK2MSFTNGXA02.phx.gbl microsoft.public.windows.server.general:87439

<X-Tomcat-NG: microsoft.public.windows.server.general

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<I have an external two drive Firewire 800 chassis populated with two

<identical 300GB hard drives. I have been using one of the hard drives to

<back up the data drive on my Dell 1600 server (with one Xeon 2800GHz CPU)

<running Windows 2003 Server, Enterprise Edition. The other hard drive is

<empty.

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<This afternoon, I tried to restore some of the data to another computer,

<running Windows XP Professional, SP2. The XP system can read the empty

300GB

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<hard drive, but cannot access the other hard drive. I cannot assign a drive letter to the drive with my data. It says it is a GPT Protective Partition.  
<My initial research discloses that this type of partition is associated with the 64 bit version of Windows, but I am running just standard stuff, as outlined above. Query: how can I access my data? How did this hard drive end up having a GPT Protective Partition? I certainly did nothing deliberately to cause this to occur. I have worked on hundreds of systems and have never previously run across this issue. Anyone?  
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• ***Follow-Ups:***

- ◆ ***Re: GPT Protective Partition – cannot assign drive letter or access it***  
◇ *From: Z Man*

• ***References:***

- ◆ ***GPT Protective Partition – cannot assign drive letter or access it***  
◇ *From: Z Man*

- Prev by Date: ***Re: WMI error***
- Next by Date: ***How to install File and Print share services if it is not installed?***
- Previous by thread: ***GPT Protective Partition – cannot assign drive letter or access it***
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