

## Re: disklabel differences FreeBSD, DragonFly

---

*Source:* <http://unix.derkeiler.com/Mailing-Lists/FreeBSD/hackers/2006-07/msg00454.html>

---

- *From:* Matthew Dillon <dillon@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
  - *Date:* Sun, 30 Jul 2006 10:01:03 -0700 (PDT)
- 

```
:
:>>>> "Dmitry" == Dmitry Marakasov <amdmi3@xxxxxxx> writes:
:
:Dmitry> * Matthew Dillon (dillon@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx) wrote:
:>> felt that 8 partitions is restrictive. My main home server has 10
:>> and the main DragonFly box has 11.
:>>
:>> There is another solution for FreeBSD folks, however. You *DO*
:>> have four slices to play with. You can put a disklabel with 8
:>> partitions in it on each one (for 32 total). It isn't as
:>> convenient, but it does work.
:
:Dmitry> About `lack' of partitions – don't forget that labels can be
:Dmitry> nested. Just do `bsdlabel -w /dev/ad0s1e` – you'll get
:Dmitry> /dev/ad0s1ea.
:
:Don't also forget that gpt(8) exists and seems to provide for large
:numbers of partitions. It even seems to be compiled into GENERIC by
:default.
:
:Dave.
```

Yah, well... I'd be a bit leery of using anything more complex than a basic disklabel. The more complex the setup, the more likely that a disk crash will become unrecoverable.

I had an issue a little while back with a disk crash where the OS's insistence on reading numerous sectors at both the beginning and end of the disk before 'recognizing' it as a disk prevented me from being able to access the disk at all, even when all I wanted to do was to make a disk image of e.g. '/dev/ad6' and skip over the bad sectors. It pissed me off so much I rewrote the code in DragonFly to not actually try to interpret a slice or partition table unless something needing the slice or partition table was accessed (like '/dev/ad6s1').

A linked or recursive partition table makes things all that much more fragile. Recursion isn't as big a deal as linking. Linked partition tables are a disaster waiting to happen. No thanks!

Re: disklable differences FreeBSD, DragonFly

–Matt  
Matthew Dillon  
<dillon@xxxxxxxxxxxx>

---

freebsd-hackers@xxxxxxxxxxxx mailing list  
<http://lists.freebsd.org/mailman/listinfo/freebsd-hackers>  
To unsubscribe, send any mail to "freebsd-hackers-unsubscribe@xxxxxxxxxxxx"