

Re: backup drive bootabel

Source: <http://unix.derkeiler.com/Mailing-Lists/FreeBSD/questions/2003-12/1948.html>

From: Noah (admin2_at_enabled.com)

Date: 12/20/03

To: Matthew Seaman <m.seaman@infracaninophile.co.uk>, Noah <admin2@enabled.com>

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>
> *To deal with a standard MBR, you have to use fdisk(8). Try:*
>
> *# fdisk -B -b /boot/mbr -i da1*
>
> *This will walk you through the current settings interactively,*
> *letting you generate a slice table, change the active slice and*
> *rewrite the boot code.*
>
> *Of course, just to confuse you, fdisk(8) will talk all about*
> *"partitions", but be assured it actually means "slices" in *BSD speak.*
> *(partitions are generated within each slice using disklabel(8) which*
> *is a BSD specific thing. slices are generic for practically all*
> *OSes that can run on the IA32 architecture from DOS onwards.)*

OKay Matthew,

I am still a little unclear here. do I need to change what BIOS thinks.

this is the first interactive prompt that I receive when running the fdisk command:

so I said no:

----- snip -----

```
# fdisk -B -b /boot/mbr -i da
fdisk: cannot open disk /dev/da: No such file or directory
typhoon# fdisk -B -b /boot/mbr -i da1
***** Working on device /dev/da1 *****
parameters extracted from in-core disklabel are:
cylinders=8924 heads=255 sectors/track=63 (16065 blks/cyl)
```

Figures below won't work with BIOS for partitions not in cyl 1
parameters to be used for BIOS calculations are:
cylinders=8924 heads=255 sectors/track=63 (16065 blks/cyl)

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Do you want to change our idea of what BIOS thinks ? [n]

--- snip ----

**** then do I say yes here?

-- snip ----

Media sector size is 512

Warning: BIOS sector numbering starts with sector 1

Information from DOS bootblock is:

The data for partition 1 is:

sysid 165,(FreeBSD/NetBSD/386BSD)

start 63, size 143363997 (70001 Meg), flag 80 (active)

beg: cyl 0/ head 1/ sector 1;

end: cyl 1023/ head 254/ sector 63

Do you want to change it? [n]

--- snip ----

and no to the rest of the partitions/slices prompts?

Thanks in advance,

Noah

>
> > *the disk is a little bit of a different size with different partition sizes.*
> > *would that Make a difference. what else can I check here?*
>
> *The disk geometry won't make any difference to the boot block.*
> *fdisk(8) will read in the current partition table and give you the*
> *opportunity to modify things, but don't do that unless you really do*
> *intend to wipe the disk contents.*
>
> *Cheers,*
>
> *Matthew*
>
> --
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