

Re: Resizing Partitions, Losing Windows XP...

Source: <http://unix.derkeiler.com/Mailing-Lists/FreeBSD/questions/2006-09/msg01830.html>

- *From:* backyard <backyard1454-bsd@xxxxxxxxxx>
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----- Jeff Cross <jeff.cross@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

I really like the way I have my stuff setup within FreeBSD and would hate to have to recreate a lot of it as well as install applications over again. Could I do a dump of my current FreeBSD partition, reformat and partition the whole drive, install FreeBSD, and then restore my data to the new partition or would this cause issues?

Any assistance is greatly appreciated!

Jeff Cross
<http://www.averageadmins.com/>

Yes fairly easily you can back everything up to "tape"

first you must find a suitable backup medium such as a USB hard drive.

I use a 5 gig seagate drive I picked up along the way.

This allows a typical root, var and about 5.6 gig of stuff on /usr. With compression things ought to work.

You might want to clean up /usr/ports/distfiles, /usr/obj, and

run a "cd /usr/ports; make -DNOCLEANDEPENDS clean" to get rid of any "unnecessary" files, but this is up to you.

then...

Re: Resizing Partitions, Losing Windows XP...

I would suggest booting to safe mode on your current FreeBSD install first of all

then do a

```
#fsck -p  
for paranoia
```

```
#swapon -a  
for swap
```

```
# mount -a -o ro
```

to mount the partitions read only. this isn't required but if the drives are rw you need `-L` as a switch to the dump command below.

```
mount -u /tmp  
dump will use /tmp
```

then mount you backup media wherever you want I will use `/mnt` as my mount point I also assume you have separate partitions for each drive.

then this monster will backup everything

```
(dump -0 -C 32 -f - / | bzip2 | dd of=/mnt/root.dbz2)  
&& (dump -0 -C 32 -f - /var | bzip2 | dd  
of=/mnt/var.dbz2) && (dump -0 -C 32 -f - /usr | bzip2  
| dd of=/mnt/usr.dbz2)
```

then grab a coffee and wait for the tapes to be made.

now to restore there are better ways to do it but this method has worked for me...

reboot with the FreeBSD install disk

go to `fdisk` and delete the old slices and create the new slice. Use all disk, I would not do this dangerously dedicated keep it compatible I've had boot issues with boot drives in dangerously dedicated mode. hit `w` to write the table it will ask if you are sure say yes and install the boot loader you want, standard MBR or the boot manager, your choice.

reboot

load up the cd and do `bsdlabel` mode
setup `root`, `usr`, `var`, `tmp`, `swap` whatever you use as a partitioning scheme. this tool will require a root

Re: Resizing Partitions, Losing Windows XP...

partitio to be specified to work. then w to write the label

now go to fixit mode on the cd and you'll be at a prompt. if your backup media was Fat32, ext2, basically anything but UFS1 or 2 you will type `sysctl kern.module_path="/dist/boot/kernel"` to let the kernel find the right modules to support fat32 then I generally do a `mkdir /TAPE` and mount the backup media there. you should also have the swap already loaded and root will be mounted on `/mnt` usr will be `/mnt/usr` and var will be `/mnt/var`
next type

```
#mdconfig -a -t swap -s 512m
```

this will give you a md node prolly `md1 512m` is what I use (512 mb of swap) but less may work fine.

```
#newfs md1
```

```
mkdir /junk; mount /dev/md1 /junk; cp /tmp/* /junk/;
umount /junk; mount /dev/md1 /tmp
```

restore will need this tmp directory to have space or things will get messy

then I would

```
#umount /mnt/var /mnt/usr /mnt
```

then I usually reformat the partitions to get rid of annoying error messages about directories already being present during the restore

```
#newfs -O 2 -L root -n /dev/ad0s1a (adjust your device
```

as required the `-L` option isn't necessary

```
#newfs -O 2 -L var -U -n /dev/ad0s1d
#newfs =O 2 -L usr -U -n /dev/ad0s1e
```

again adust the devices as required

then remount root to `/mnt`

then

```
#bzip2 -dc /TAPE/root.dbz2 | (cd /mnt; restore -r -f
-)
```

mount var and usr then repeat for them with "`cd /mnt/usr`" and "`cd /mnt/var`" as required. make any changes to `/mnt/etc/fstab` as required, unmount

Re: Resizing Partitions, Losing Windows XP...

everything and you should be good to go for a reboot.
you may get some "expected 23423234 got 234253546"
messages in the restore. a few of them aren't a
problem. As suggested by others MAKE SURE YOUR DUMPS
ARE GOOD PRIOR TO DOING THE RESLICING AND
PARTITIONING!!!! you can use that restore command to
restore to wherever you want with the right change
dir so find some free space and doit. even if you run
a newfs on the windows slice and mount it unlabeled
just to see the dumps are good, and assuming you don't
care about windows being lost.

after the reboot delete the restoresymtable files on
each of the filesystems

of course if you know fdisk and bsdlable from the
command line using a freesbie live cd would prolly
make this easier and not require a reboot after the
fdisk...

I have had issues with the drives being able to boot
up so I generally like to use grub. so readup on
manually installing the MBR or boot manager just in
case. I think my last restore I just chose the
standard MBR and everything went fine.

good luck

-brian

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