



Advisory for Beginning Fedora 2

Dual-boot issue for Microsoft Windows and Fedora Core 2

A bug in the partitioning tools that ship with Fedora Core 2 may alter the hard disk geometry preventing Microsoft Windows from boot.

As mentioned in the chapter 1, **Installing Fedora 2**, if you are installing Fedora Core 2 on a computer with Microsoft Windows previously installed so that you may boot into either operating systems (i.e. a Dual-boot setup), please ensure that you have read and understood the rest of this advisory before proceeding any further.

Prevention

If you have not yet installed Fedora Core 2, please follow the steps below to prevent this problem from occurring.

1. You need to create a rescue CD. You may download and burn the Fedora Core 2 Rescue CD from the downloads section of <http://fedora.redhat.com>. The CD image for the rescue CD is named *FC2-i386-rescuecd.iso*
2. Boot from the rescue CD, skipping networking. You need not mount the hard drives.
3. From the command prompt, run the 'fdisk' command as described below to print the current partition table. For e.g., if your primary hard disk is '/dev/hda'

```
# fdisk -l /dev/hda
Disk /dev/hda: 60.0 GB, 60022480896 bytes
16 heads, 63 sectors/track, 116301 cylinders
```

<rest of the output is skipped>

4. Note down the drive geometry reported by the 'fdisk' command. For our purposes, you just need to note down the number of cylinders, heads, and sectors. In the example above, these are 116301, 16 and 63 respectively.
5. Shut down the computer and remove the rescue CD while the system powers down.
6. Restart the system inserting the Fedora Core 2 Installation CD or the DVD shipped with the book. At the Fedora boot menu prompt specify the disk geometry. For e.g. using the disk geometry displayed in step 3, you would enter the following

```
boot: linux hda=14593,16,63
```

NOTE: Do not enter the exact line as shown above. Use the values that apply to your system.

7. Continue with the installation process as described in the book.

Recovery

What if you have already installed Fedora Core 2 already and Microsoft Windows is failing to boot? It may still be possible to recover the system by following the steps below.

1. Restart the system and boot into Fedora Core 2.
2. Log in as the root user.
3. Open a terminal and issue the 'sfdisk' command as shown below from the command-prompt:

```
# sfdisk -d /dev/hda | sfdisk --no-reread --force -H255 /dev/hda
```

4. Restart the system by issuing the 'reboot' command. The system should now be able to boot into both Microsoft Windows and Fedora Core 2.

Note: Please attempt the steps detailed above before using other third-party recovery tools.

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