

# GPT Partitions

# MBR and GPT\*

We've now discussed basic **M**aster **B**oot **R**ecord (**MBR**) booting and **B**asic **MBR** partitions

*This booting & partition schema that has been very widely used since the early 1970s (half a century)*

*Companion software called BIOS*

Basic Input/Output System

*BMBR had limitations that had mostly been overcome*

About the year 2000 another schema was proposed

*Overcame the BMBR limitations*

**G**lobally **U**nique **ID**entifier **P**artition **T**able

**GUID** Partition **T**able, **GPT**

# GPT Partitions

## GUID Partition Table

**GPT**: A newer partition schema, began in ~2000

First used with ia64 & x86-64 UEFI systems

*ia64: Intel Itanium-based systems (fading)*

**UEFI**: **U**nified **E**xtensible **F**irmware **I**nterface

*Often referred to as just **EFI***

***EFI** is used in place of BIOS*

**GUID or UUID**

*Globally **U**nique **ID**entifier or **U**niversal **U**nique **ID**entifier*

*128-bit number that should uniquely identify something*

$2^{128} = 3.4 \times 10^{38} = 34 \text{ billion trillion trillion}$

# GPT and EFI

GPT can be used to boot the following OSs if the firmware used is EFI (not BIOS)

*FreeBSD and most Linux distros*

*Vista, Win7 and upward using x86-64 and EFI*

*Windows 2003, 2008, 2012 and upward servers using ia64 with EFI*

*MacOS from v10.4 onward*

GPT cannot be used to boot any Windows OS or MacOSX from a PC that has BIOS firmware

*The firmware must be EFI, not BIOS*

# GPT and EFI

Many systems are now hybrid BIOS/EFI

*Boot using either BIOS or EFI*

*BIOS has usually taken precedence*

EFI criticisms

*Overly complex without adding value*

*Number of partitions limited to 128*

May have recently changed

If BIOS and MBR were updated, they would be adequate

*Can exceed 128 partitions*

# GPT Volume Layout

**MBR** (*in LBA 0*)

**Protective:** *Prevents MBR-based software from overwriting GPT*

**Hybrid:** *Allows GPT booting that starts in the MBR*

**GPT Header** (*in LBA 1*)

*Identifies useable logical blocks*

*Number of partitions for the drive*

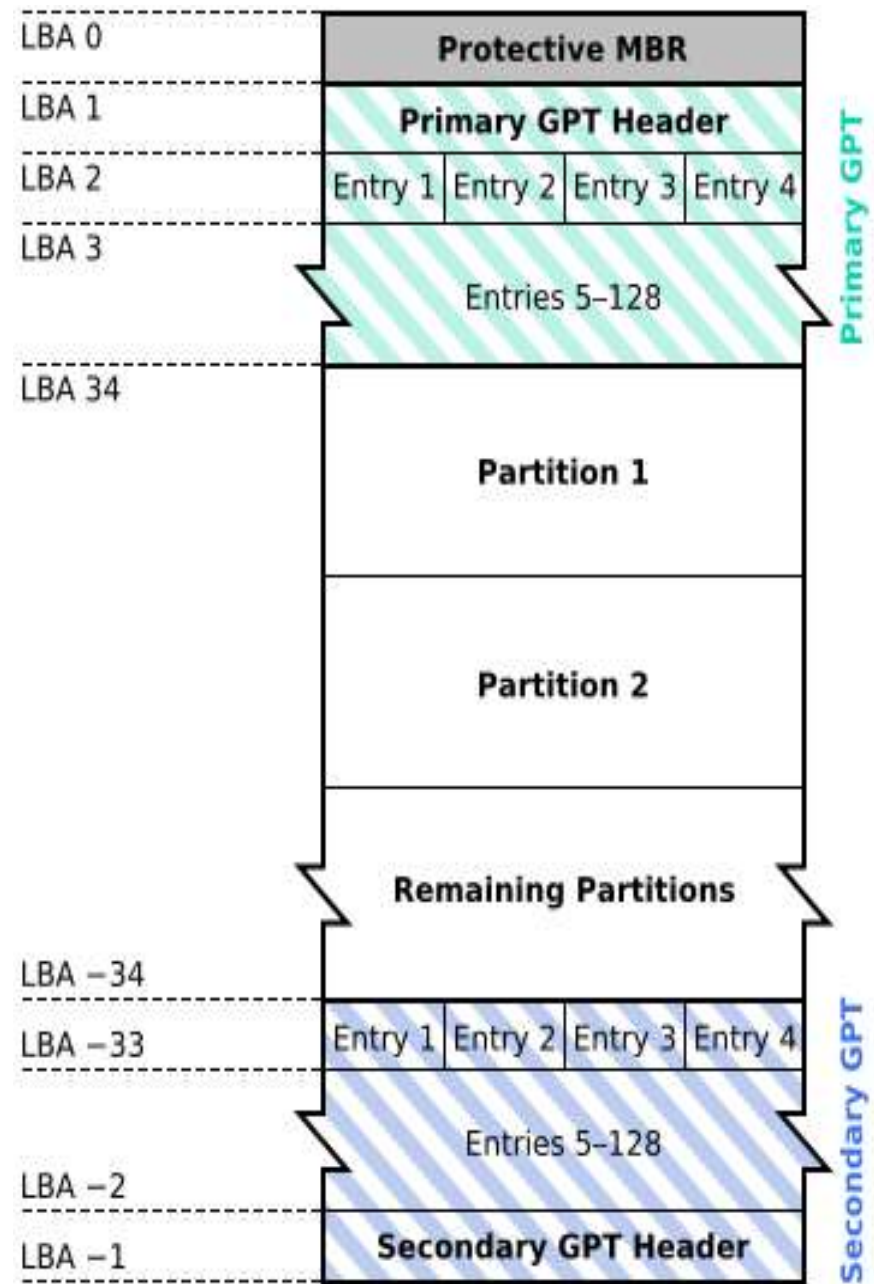
*Size of partition table* Entries

Reserves space for 128 entries  
each of 128 bytes

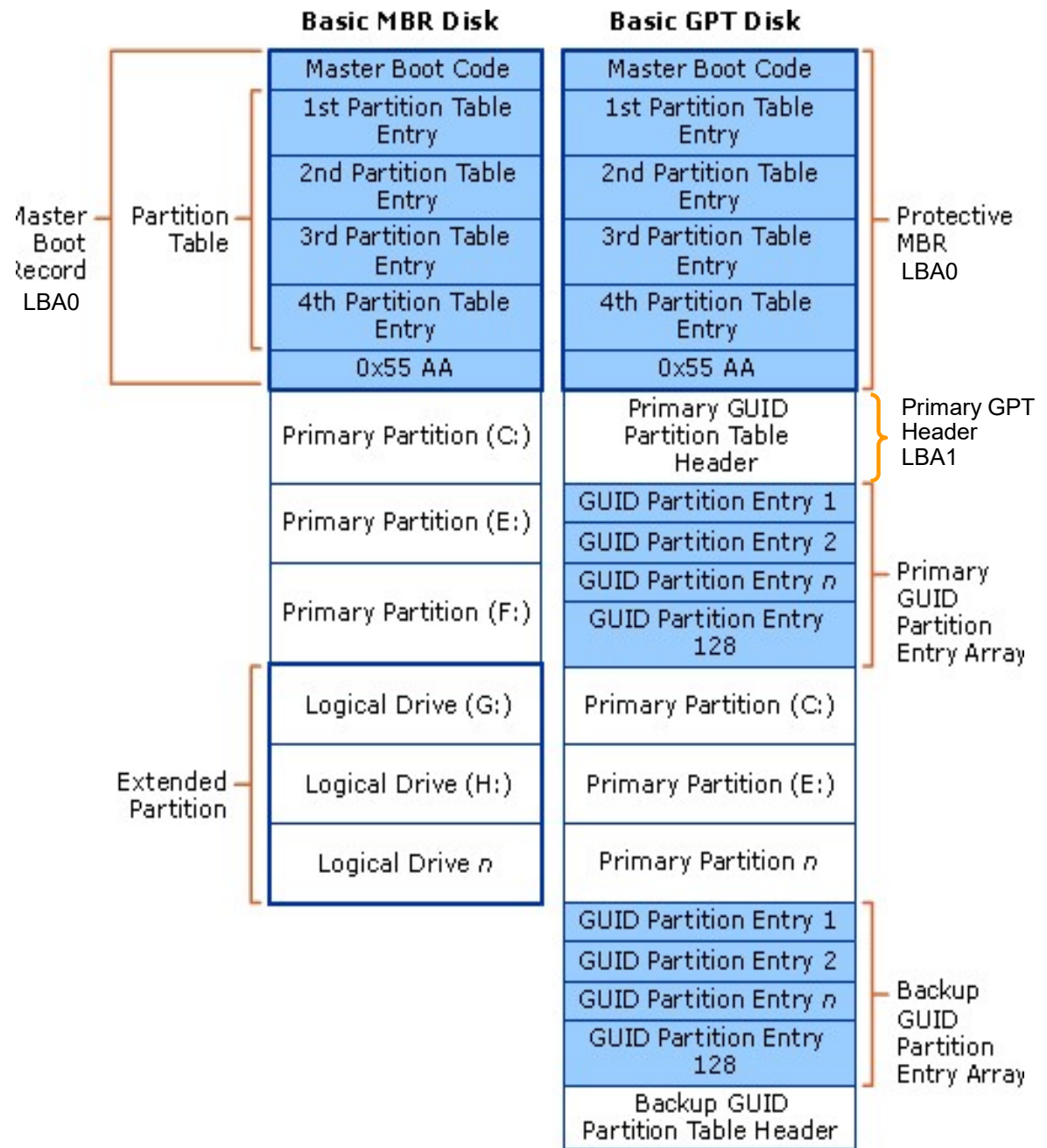
*GUID (UUID) for entire volume*

**Partition Table** (*LBA3 - LBA33*)

**Partitions** (*LBA34-LBA<sub>max</sub> - 34*)



# MBR & GPT Drive Layout Comparison





# Protective MBR

## *LBA 0*

Offset	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
000000000000	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	
00000000016	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	
00000000032	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	
00000000048	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	
00000000064	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	
00000000080	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	

*Removed*

00000000416	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	
00000000432	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	7B	18	66	F5	00	00	00	00	{ f8
00000000448	02	00	EE	FF	FF	FF	01	00	00	00	FF	FF	FF	FF	00	00	îyyy yyyÿ
00000000464	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	
00000000480	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	
00000000496	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	55	AA	U <sup>a</sup>
00000000512	45	46	49	20	50	41	52	54	00	00	01	00	5C	00	00	00	EFI PART \

Protective MBR:

Has no boot code, contains a single **partition**, type field is **EE**

LBA 1 begins immediately with **EFI PART** (*EFI PARTition*)



# Protective MBR Partition Table Single Partition\*

Byte Range	Description	
0-0	Bootable Flag	<b>0x 00</b>
1-3	Starting CHS Address	<b>0x 00 02 00</b> = $512_{10}$ or $8192_{10}$ Not sure how to interpret this.
4-4	Partition Type	<b>0x EE</b> Means that this is a GPT drive
5-7	Ending CHS Address	<b>0x FF FF FF</b> All 1s means the end of the drive
8-11	Starting LBA Address	<b>0x 01 00 00 00</b> ( <i>little endian</i> ) GPT starts in LBA 1
12-15	Size in Sectors	<b>0x FF FF FF FF</b> ( <i>little endian</i> ) All 1s means the end of the drive

# GPT Header

# A GPT Header: *EFI PART*

Offset	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
00000000496	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	55	AA	U <sup>a</sup>
00000000512	45	46	49	20	50	41	52	54	00	00	01	00	5C	00	00	00	EFI PART \
00000000528	D4	C9	AA	4D	00	00	00	00	01	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	ÔÉ <sup>a</sup> M
00000000544	AF	12	9E	3B	00	00	00	00	22	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	— ž; "
00000000560	8E	12	9E	3B	00	00	00	00	E3	E6	BE	1E	15	30	76	4E	Ž ž; ãæ¼ 0vN
00000000576	A4	67	AD	CA	62	7E	CC	13	02	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	≈g-Êb~î
00000000592	80	00	00	00	80	00	00	00	91	FE	94	34	00	00	00	00	€ € 'p"4
00000000608	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	
00000000624	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	
00000000640	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	
00000000656	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	
00000000672	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	
00000000688	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	
00000000704	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	
00000000720	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	
00000000736	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	
00000000752	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	
00000000768	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	
00000000784	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	
00000000800	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	
00000000816	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	
00000000832	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	
00000000848	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	
00000000864	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	
00000000880	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	
00000000896	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	
00000000912	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	
00000000928	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	
00000000944	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	
00000000960	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	
00000000976	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	
00000000992	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	
00000001008	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	
00000001024	28	73	2A	C1	1F	F8	D2	11	BA	4B	00	A0	C9	3E	C9	3B	(s*Á øÒ °K É>É;
00000001040	B6	D8	51	69	07	E0	25	4F	B6	73	C1	31	6D	CE	24	E8	ŦØQi à%OŦsÁ1mîŞè
Sector 1 of 1,000,215,216									Offset: 519			= 84			Block: 512 - 519		



# GPT Header

Offset	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
00000000496	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	55	AA	U <sup>a</sup>
00000000512	45	46	49	20	50	41	52	54	00	00	01	00	5C	00	00	00	EFI PART \
00000000528	D4	C9	AA	4D	00	00	00	00	01	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	ÔÉ <sup>a</sup> M
00000000544	AF	12	9E	3B	00	00	00	00	22	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	— ž; "
00000000560	8E	12	9E	3B	00	00	00	00	E3	E6	BE	1E	15	30	76	4E	Ž ž; äæ¼ 0vN
00000000576	A4	67	AD	CA	62	7E	CC	13	02	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	ng-Êb~î
00000000592	80	00	00	00	80	00	00	00	91	FE	94	34	00	00	00	00	€ € 'p"4
00000000608	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	
00000000624	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	
00000000640	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	
00000000656	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	
00000000672	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	
00000000688	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	
00000000704	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	
00000000720	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	
00000000736	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	
00000000752	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	
00000000768	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	
00000000784	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	
00000000800	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	
00000000816	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	
00000000832	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	
00000000848	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	
00000000864	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	
00000000880	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	
00000000896	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	
00000000912	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	
00000000928	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	
00000000944	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	
00000000960	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	
00000000976	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	
00000000992	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	
00000001008	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	
00000001024	28	73	2A	C1	1F	F8	D2	11	BA	4B	00	A0	C9	3E	C9	3B	(s*Á øÒ °K É>É;
00000001040	B6	D8	51	69	07	E0	25	4F	B6	73	C1	31	6D	CE	24	E8	ŸØQi à%OŸsÁlmîSè
Sector 1 of 1,000,215,216									Offset: 603			= 52			Block: 512 - 603		

# GPT Header Format

## *LBA 1*

<b>Byte Positions</b>	<b>Contents</b>
0-7 (8 bytes)	EFI PART (Hex 45 46 49 20 50 41 52 54)
8-11 (4 bytes)	EFI version number. Currently 0x00 0x00 0x01 0x00
12-15 (4 bytes)	Header size. Usual size is 92 bytes (Hex little endian 5c 00 00 00)
16-19 (4 bytes)	CRC-32 of GPT Header. (This field considered zero in doing calculation.)
20-23 (4 bytes)	Reserved. Must be 0x00 0x00 0x00 0x00
24-31 (8 bytes)	LBA location of this GPT Header
32-39 (8 bytes)	LBA location of backup copy of GPT Header
40-47 (8 bytes)	Value of 1 <sup>st</sup> LBA that can be used for an actual partition. Usual value is 34 <sub>10</sub>
48-55 (8 bytes)	Value of last LBA that can be used for an actual partition. Usual value is # of sectors in disk - 34
56-71 (16 bytes)	Disk GUID (Also called UUID in some UNIX and Linux)
72-79 (8 bytes)	Value of beginning LBA for partition entries. Integer power of 2 in primary GPT Header
80-83 (4 bytes)	Number of partition entries (In WinHex example, 128 <sub>10</sub> )
84-87 (4 bytes)	Size of partition entries in bytes. Usually 128 <sub>10</sub>
88-91 (4 bytes)	CRC-32 of partition array
92-511 (420 bytes)	Reserved

# GPT Partition Table



# GPT Partition Table: 4 of 6 Entries Shown

Offset	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
000000001024	28	73	2A	C1	1F	F8	D2	11	BA	4B	00	A0	C9	3E	C9	3B	(s*Á øÒ °K É>É;
000000001040	B6	D8	51	69	07	E0	25	4F	B6	73	C1	31	6D	CE	24	E8	¶ØQi à%O¶sÁlmf\$è
000000001056	00	08	00	00	00	00	00	00	FF	27	08	00	00	00	00	00	ÿ'
000000001072	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	80	45	00	46	00	49	00	20	00	€E F I
000000001088	73	00	79	00	73	00	74	00	65	00	6D	00	20	00	70	00	s y s t e m p
000000001104	61	00	72	00	74	00	69	00	74	00	69	00	6F	00	6E	00	a r t i t i o n
000000001120	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	
000000001136	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	
000000001152	16	E3	C9	E3	5C	0B	B8	4D	81	7D	F9	2D	F0	02	15	AE	ãÉä\ ,M }ù-ø @
000000001168	A6	C4	F1	E2	5B	30	96	44	91	4C	24	3E	B0	CF	A9	68	!Äñâ[0-D`L\$>°İ@h
000000001184	00	28	08	00	00	00	00	00	FF	27	0C	00	00	00	00	00	( ÿ'
000000001200	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	80	4D	00	69	00	63	00	72	00	€M i c r
000000001216	6F	00	73	00	6F	00	66	00	74	00	20	00	72	00	65	00	o s o f t r e
000000001232	73	00	65	00	72	00	76	00	65	00	64	00	20	00	70	00	s e r v e d p
000000001248	61	00	72	00	74	00	69	00	74	00	69	00	6F	00	6E	00	a r t i t i o n
000000001264	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	
000000001280	A2	A0	D0	EB	E5	B9	33	44	87	C0	68	B6	B7	26	99	C7	¢ Ðëä¹3D†Àh¶·&™Ç
000000001296	A7	22	CE	91	33	B9	20	4E	B9	7B	0C	CF	F1	7D	62	B2	\$"İ'3¹ N¹{ İñ}b²
000000001312	00	28	0C	00	00	00	00	00	FF	3F	DD	1D	00	00	00	00	( ÿ?Ý
000000001328	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	42	00	61	00	73	00	69	00	B a s i
000000001344	63	00	20	00	64	00	61	00	74	00	61	00	20	00	70	00	c d a t a p
000000001360	61	00	72	00	74	00	69	00	74	00	69	00	6F	00	6E	00	a r t i t i o n
000000001376	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	
000000001392	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	
000000001408	A2	A0	D0	EB	E5	B9	33	44	87	C0	68	B6	B7	26	99	C7	¢ Ðëä¹3D†Àh¶·&™Ç
000000001424	F8	B7	7F	4D	BB	5A	8C	48	83	83	D1	71	CB	D4	35	45	ø· M»ZEHffÑqÊÔ5E
000000001440	00	40	DD	1D	00	00	00	00	FF	BF	F7	23	00	00	00	00	@Ý ÿ¿÷#
000000001456	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	42	00	61	00	73	00	69	00	B a s i
000000001472	63	00	20	00	64	00	61	00	74	00	61	00	20	00	70	00	c d a t a p
000000001488	61	00	72	00	74	00	69	00	74	00	69	00	6F	00	6E	00	a r t i t i o n
000000001504	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	
000000001520	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	



# GUID Partition Entry Format

<i>Byte Positions</i>	<i>Contents</i>
0-15      (16 bytes)	Partition Type as a GUID
16-31    (16 bytes)	Unique partition as a GUID
32-39    (8 bytes)	First LBA of this partition (little endian)
40-47    (8 bytes)	Last LBA of this partition (little endian). Often odd number
48-55    (8 bytes)	Attribute flags: Bit 0:      System. Do not repartition Bit 2 & 3: Legacy MBR bootable partition value of 0x80 Bit 60:     Read-only partition Bit 62:     Do not automount (don't assign drive letter)
56-127   (72 bytes)	Partition name (Up to 36 UTF-16 characters)

# GPT Partition Table

## *First Entry*

Offset	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
1024	28	73	2A	C1	1F	F8	D2	11	BA	4B	00	A0	C9	3E	C9	3B	(s*Á øÒ °K É>É;
1040	B6	D8	51	69	07	E0	25	4F	B6	73	C1	31	6D	CE	24	E8	¶ØQi à%O¶sÁ1mî\$è
1056	00	08	00	00	00	00	00	00	FF	27	08	00	00	00	00	00	ÿ'
1072	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	80	45	00	46	00	49	00	20	00	€E F I
1088	73	00	79	00	73	00	74	00	65	00	6D	00	20	00	70	00	s y s t e m p
1104	61	00	72	00	74	00	69	00	74	00	69	00	6F	00	6E	00	a r t i t i o n
1120	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	
1136	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	

Offset	Size	Description
0-15	(16 bytes)	Partition Type as a GUID
16-31	(16 bytes)	Unique partition as a GUID
32-39	(8 bytes)	First LBA of this partition (little endian)
40-47	(8 bytes)	Last LBA of this partition (little endian). Often odd number
48-55	(8 bytes)	Attribute flags:
56-127	(72 bytes)	Partition name (Up to 36 UTF-16 characters)

# Installing Win8-64 and Beyond Requires Choosing

