Exercise 44.4: Recovering from Partition Table Corruption

Very Important

This exercise is dangerous and could leave to an unusable system. Make sure you really understand things before doing it

Please Note

The following instructions for an **MBR** system. if you have **GPT** you need to use **sgdisk** with the `--backup-file` and `--load-backup` options as discussed in the partitioning chapter

1. Login as root and save your **MBR**:

```
$ dd if=/dev/sda of=/root/mbrsave bs=446 count=1
 1+0 records in
 1+0 records out
 446 bytes (446 B) copied, 0.00976759 s, 45.7 kB/s
```

   Be careful: make sure you issue the exact command above and that the file saved has the right length:

```
 $ sudo ls -l /root/mbrsave
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 446 Nov 12 07:54 mbrsave
```

2. Now we are going to obliterate the **MBR** with:

```
$ dd if=/dev/zero of=/dev/sda bs=446 count=1
1+0 records in
1+0 records out
446 bytes (446 B) copied, 0.000124091 s, 3.6 MB/s
```

3. Reboot the system; it should fail.
4. Reboot into the rescue environment and restore the **MBR**:

```
$ dd if=/mnt/sysimage/root/mbrsave of=/dev/sda bs=446 count=1
```

5. Exit from the rescue environment and reboot. The system should boot properly now.

