HOW TO REORDER LINUX DRIVE PARTITION NUMBERS
(using   fdisk)

So you've been messing around with your hard drive partitions and your partition numbers are listed in the wrong order and now you want to know how to fix them so they run sequentially from lowest to highest.

Here's a quick textual example of ordered storage device partition naming to help you understand:

sda1 | sda2 | sda3 | sda4

sda1 | sda5 | sda6 | sda7

And here's an example of unordered storage device partition naming:

sda1 | sda7 | sda5 | sda6

It is very easy to fix partition name ordering with that most feared and deadly disk management tool called fdisk.

Warning: fixing, moving or altering disk partitions <u>can result in data loss</u>. Fdisk and other disk management tools have completely buggered many storage devices when used to correct drive faults. Although you are about to learn something that is usually safe, I must warn you to be cautious and back up irreplaceable data first. You should consider using testdisk if a mistake is made and data is lost.

USING FDISK TO REORDER DRIVE PARTITION LABELS

Firstly, we need to learn the logical name of the disk that houses the unordered partitions name. If you don't already know which drive's partition naming is an unordered mess then you probably don't have anything to fix. But for informational purposes…

#List the partition tables for all devices or the specified devices

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$ sudo fdisk -l          or          $ fdisk -l <device>
```

That's a lowercase "L".
This will list storage devices in alphanumeric order. Look through the data reported and note the name of any devices that are listed out of numerical order.

- #use fdisk on a specific storage device

  > **$** sudo fdisk <device>

- **#then**

  - press "x" to enter Expert Mode
  - press "f" to fix the drive order
  - press "r" to return to main menu
    press "w" to write changes to the disk
  - press "q" to quit fdisk

It's that simple.

Replace /dev/sdXY with the name of the device you wish to reorganize partition numbers on.

Now check the drive partition naming order by typing **sudo fdisk -l** into a terminal.

Storage devices can be listed in the file system in many ways..
 But here we are using device files under /dev so they are referred to as, for example:

- /dev/sda
- /dev/sdb
- /dev/sdc
  - etc....

There are a few ways to discover the logical name of a storage device:

- graphical
- textual

The graphical method is easiest for most people. If you want to try it, install a program such as GParted. There are many textual methods we can use to learn information about storage devices attached to a computer.

- **sudo fdisk -l**
- **lsblk**
- **lsblk -f**