



How to hide EFI-partition?

Asked 4 years, 7 months ago Active 1 year, 6 months ago Viewed 34k times

For some sort of reason my EFI-partition shows up in disk management as well as This PC.

16 Is there a way to hide again without messing up my system? Preferably by command line (diskpart).

windows windows-10 efi
7

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asked Aug 16 '16 at 10:36

Starhowl
672 3 8 17

7 Answers

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14 Apparently, it wasn't the EFI- but recovery-partition, which showed up due to a bug being present in the upgrade to v1803 of Windows 10.

Following simple line did hide it in an administrator command prompt: `mountvol e: /d` where e: is to be replaced by it designated drive letter. Disk Management didn't offer any such option due to the partition being essential for the system.

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answered Jun 24 '18 at 17:38

Starhowl
672 3 8 17

Following the instructions of user Japelo_1976 in [this thread](#) helped me.

9 You have to delete the registry file with regedit for the volume you want to remove the drive letter.

1. Open Windows Powershell or the command line as administrator:

`Start → Right click Powershell → Run as administrator`

2. Open diskpart:

`diskpart`

3. Identify the EFI partition showing up in Explorer:

`list volume`

4. Select the EFI partition (replacing the x with the correct drive letter):
select volume X
5. Remove the EFI partition's drive letter (replacing the x with the correct drive letter):
remove letter=X
6. Exit diskpart:
exit
7. Open regedit:
Start → Type regedit
8. Find the right key/folder:
Computer\HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SYSTEM\MountedDevices
9. If the EFI partitions drive letter is still in the registry, delete the value:
e.g. \DosDevices\x:
10. Close RegEdit and reboot.

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edited Jul 29 '18 at 11:23

answered Jul 29 '18 at 10:57



 It is normal for EFI partition to show up in Disk Management. But it shouldn't show up in This PC.
 You can, however, remove its drive letter so that it is hidden from This PC.

5

To do this:

1. Open Disk Management
2. Right-click on the partition
3. Select "Change Drive Letter and Paths..."
4. Click "Remove"
5. Click OK

You can do this with diskpart too.

1. Run **diskpart**.
2. Enter **list volume** and press Enter.
3. Find the volume you'd like to hide and memorize its number.
4. Enter **select volume [number]** where **[number]** is the number you memorized.
5. Enter **remove** and press Enter.

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answered Aug 16 '16 at 10:47

user477799

1 Second way works for me but volume appears again when I reboot windows... – gordie Mar 16 '18 at 17:28

 I found the final step on another forum...

 2 After following these instructions using `DISKPART` (which are found in several other forums as well):

1. Run command prompt as admin
2. Type `DISKPART`
3. Type `LIST VOLUME`
4. Type `SELECT VOLUME NUMBER "z"` (where "z" is *your* EFI drive number)
5. Type `REMOVE LETTER=z` (where z is *your* drive number)

Many of you thought this would do the trick, but found the drive letter only temporarily disappears from Windows Explorer. It returns after restarting.

So, to fully remove the drive letter before restarting your computer you'll need to remove a registry key:

1. Open `RegEdit`
2. Navigate to `HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SYSTEM\MountedDevices`

If the EFI partition drive letter is listed in the right hand pane (for example `\DosDevices\z:`), right click and delete the value.

For added protection right click the registry value (i.e. "`DosDevices\z:`", where z is *your* EFI drive letter) and export the key; save to your desktop. Delete this backup once you've restarted and confirmed that the registry change correctly modified your settings.

If you accidentally deleted the wrong key, you can restore (merge) the previously saved backup and try again.

HTH those who've been trying to solve this problem.

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edited Jun 1 '19 at 19:10

answered Jun 1 '19 at 18:45



JosefZ

11.1k 5 28 59



ItsMeSB

21 1

 Chances are the partition type code is set incorrectly. I don't know offhand how Windows' Disk Management or `diskpart` show GPT type codes, but they can be changed with some programs.
1 In my own [GPT fdisk](#) (`gdisk`), for instance, you'd use the `t` option to change the type code to

EF00 (`gdisk`'s internal code for an ESP; in reality, it's stored as C12A7328-F81F-11D2-BA4B-00A0C93EC93B). In the Linux `parted` or GParted utilities, you'd set the "boot flag" on the

partition to set the right type code. Something similar is likely to be possible with Microsoft's standard tools, but I don't know how to do it with them.

Setting the type code correctly (if an incorrect type code is the problem) is likely to be better than adjusting the volume visibility in Windows, since setting the type code correctly will handle the source of the problem, rather than simply covering it up. This in turn means that the problem won't re-occur should you have to re-install Windows or if you choose to install another OS (either to replace Windows or to dual-boot with it).

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answered Aug 16 '16 at 12:59

 Rod Smith
19.7k 3 33 49

Diskpart didn't let me remove the driveletter. What worked for me was adding the hidden attribute.

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```
C:\> diskpart
DISKPART> LIST VOLUME
DISKPART> SELECT VOLUME 0 // instead of 0 you'd use the volume number that you want to hide
DISKPART> ATTRIBUTES VOLUME // mine said hidden=no but no_default_drive_letter = yes
DISKPART> ATTRIBUTES VOLUME SET HIDDEN
```

If you peruse the diskpart help you'll find the ability to set GPT flags in general, but the solution that Rod Smith proposed didn't really seem smart for my case.

I had a system partition that was already hidden and a 450MB "OEM partition" that was suddenly visible after a Windows 10 update. The System partition already had the ID C12A7328-F81F-11D2-BA4B-00A0C93EC93B so assigning that to the second volume too, didn't seem like the smart course of action. Also, the description for adding the `GPT_BASIC_DATA_ATTRIBUTE_HIDDEN` flag mentioned that it would hide it completely from WIN32, not just get rid of the drive letter.

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answered May 14 '18 at 6:43

 PeterT
111 2

The same symptoms can also be attributed to having incorrectly formatted the ESP partition as FAT16 rather than FAT32 - the partition is then visible within the user interface of both Linux and Windows (and likely macOS) with no apparent remedy.

1

For example, using the command `mkfs.vfat /dev/sdxx` seems to work as expected and tends not to hinder EFI functionality, but produces a FAT16 file system. Using instead `mkfs.fat -F32 /dev/sdxx` will ensure a valid (EFI-compliant) FAT32 partition and avoid this cosmetic annoyance.

Hope this helps.

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answered Aug 1 '19 at 5:35

 Lee James
11 1