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UNIX/Linux Administration

February 24 2016

Creating a multi bootable usb drive

Note: I recommend you do this on a Linux machine that isn’t a virtual machine. Doing these steps on a virtual machine could lead to errors and changes in the steps. Also please don’t type the quotations unless specifically stated.

Step 1 - You first need to be root to do this so type in the terminal: “sudo su”

Step 2 - Type “fdisk –l” (look for your usb. It will most likely look like this “sdc” but the third character can be different.)

Step 3 - Type “fdisk /dev/sdc” (change the c to what your actual usb drive is labeled)

Step 4 - Type “d” (to delete the existing partition)

Step 5 - Type “n” (to create a new partition)

Step 6 - Type “p” (for primary partition)

Step 7 - Type “1” (to create the first partition)

Step 8 - Press Enter (to use the first cylinder)

Step 9 - Press Enter again (to use the default value as the last cylinder)

Step 10 - Type “a” (for active)

Step 11 - Type “1” (to mark the first partition active "bootable")

Step 12 - Type “t” (for partition type)

Note: fat32 only supports up to 4 GB, so the rest won’t be usable. You can use other

filesystems, but you have to make sure they are supported by Linux/GRUB.

Step 13 - Type “c” (to use fat32 partition)

Step 14 - Type “w” (to write the changes and close fdisk)

Now you need to create a FAT32 filesystem unless you use another type of file system.

Step 15 - Type “umount /dev/sdc1” (replace the c if your usb device was labeled differently)

Note: this will create a fat32 file system that only supports 4 GB, so change it if you have a higher capacity usb drive.

Step 16 - Type “mkfs.vfat -F32 -n MULTIBOOT /dev/sdc1” (replace the c with your actual usb label)

Note: it will name your usb “MULTIBOOT”