

# How do you use fdisk to create an extended partition?

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We will assume you are modifying the first drive on your system. (To get a listing of your current partition scheme use `fdisk -l` .

First create a new partition on your drive with the (n) command:

```
# fdisk /dev/hda Command (m for help): n (create new partition) Command action e extended p primary partition (1-4)
```

Next create your extended partition by selecting 'e' (it will automatically select the next available partition on the drive):

```
e Selected partition 4
```

Determine the starting point for the partition, default will select the next available cylinder on the drive:

```
First cylinder (1675-4863, default 1675): Using default value 1675
```

Here is where you can select the size of your new partition, for example, to make a 1 GB partition you would set the command: `+1024M`

```
Last cylinder or +size or +sizeM or +sizeK (1675-4863, default 4863): +1024M
```

This will then take you back to the command line where you can see your newly created partition.

```
Command (m for help): p Disk /dev/hda: 40.0 GB, 40000000000 bytes 255 heads, 63 sectors/track, 4863 cylinders Units = cylinders of 16065 * 512 = 8225280 bytes Device Boot Start End Blocks Id System /dev/hda1 * 1 13 104391 83 Linux /dev/hda2 14 1543 12289725 83 Linux /dev/hda3 1544 1674 1052257+ 82 Linux swap /dev/hda4 1675 1799 1004062+ 5 Extended
```

The last line is the newly created extended partition as you can see it is listed in blocks rather than megabytes and the partition ID type automatically defaults to Extended which will allow you to create your filesystem on that partition.

Finally save and exit fdisk with the write/quit command (w). **Changes will be permanent after this command is executed.**

```
Command (m for help): w
```