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#document # 2

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Please use this at your own risk

Also take backup of your important files, although you might not need that but be prepared for the worst

The **lines in are bold** are system commands or syntax of some files

## **Mounting Drives**

Update /etc/fstab file

This file needs to be updated for if you do not want to mount other partions (e.g. windows partitions)

Every time you start up.

First of all you need to see which partition you want to mount

YOU can see that by running the following command at bash# prompt

**#fdisk /dev/hda**

If your hard disk is            use

Primary master	hda
Primary slave	hdb
Secondary master	hdc
Secondary slave	hdd

If you use wrong device then you may get error message such as

"Cannot open device hdc"

If command is successful you get

**[root@gaaurav qmail]# fdisk /dev/hda**

**The number of cylinders for this disk is set to 4865.**

**There is nothing wrong with that, but this is larger than 1024,**

**And could in certain setups cause problems with:**

**1) software that runs at boot time (e.g., old versions of LILO)**

**2) booting and partitioning software from other OSs**

**(e.g., DOS FDISK, OS/2 FDISK)**

**Command (m for help):**

At this prompt run 'p' single character to see your partition table

Here is the result of my partition table

**Command (m for help): p**

**Disk /dev/hda: 40.0 GB, 40020664320 bytes  
255 heads, 63 sectors/track, 4865 cylinders  
Units = cylinders of 16065 \* 512 = 8225280 bytes**

<b>Device</b>	<b>Boot</b>	<b>Start</b>	<b>End</b>	<b>Blocks</b>	<b>Id</b>	<b>System</b>
/dev/hda1	*	1	561	4506201	b	Win95 FAT32
/dev/hda2		562	3939	27133785	f	Win95 Ext'd (LBA)
/dev/hda3		3940	4385	3582495	a5	FreeBSD
/dev/hda4		4386	4865	3855600	83	Linux
/dev/hda5		562	1096	4297356	7	HPFS/NTFS
/dev/hda6		1097	1606	4096543+	b	Win95 FAT32
/dev/hda7		1607	3008	11261533+	b	Win95 FAT32
/dev/hda8		3009	3872	6940048+	b	Win95 FAT32
/dev/hda9		3873	3939	538146	b	Win95 FAT32

You can easily recognize which drive you want to mount

Here I have my windows partitions as

devices	Windows Partitions
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/dev/hda1	C
/dev/hda5	D
/dev/hda6	E
/dev/hda7	F
/dev/hda8	G
/dev/hda9	H

It is my extended partition you cannot mount that whole partition but you can only mount the logical drives in this partition

We can make a folder anywhere but as going by the convention we make all the folders and mount them in

Make a new folder in mnt directory say win\_e

You can mount it by the following command

/mnt/win\_e gives the path of folder you want to mount

You can add an entry to this file as under corresponding headings

auto tells to detect the filesystem automatically

defaults      these two basically deal with the type of mounting we are  
0 0            performing and where we want to dump the partiton  
                 (related to backing of ext2 filesystem)

Need not worry about last 2 options; just see that you are giving the right device and right path to folder to mount

Lines of caution

1. Do not delete any existing entries of /etc/fstab file, it will be good if you take a backup of the fstab file and then

Perform any changes.

If something goes wrong in that file the system may not boot up (in the worst case)

2. While using the fdisk command

Be careful and do not try other options other than the p command

**Command (m for help): p**

If you r not sure of what you r doing.

3. After updating the fstab file if during startup you get error of some sorts that e.g.

/mnt/win\_g not found, mounting failed

Then check if you have made a folder in the given path and no spelling mistakes are there in your fstab file.

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