

40 - Disk Space and Formatting

ASCII Programs:

Check if a cdrom is connected to the right devicename

```
cat /dev/hdc
```

Partitioning of hard disk

```
fdisk /dev/hdb      Older but good partitioning program
cfdisk /dev/hdb    Menu oriented fdisk
parted /dev/hdb    Can create, erase, resize or move partitions.
                   Warning: It executes command immediately
gpart /dev/hdb     Even retrieves deleted partitions
fdformat /dev/fd0  Low-Level formatting of floppy disk
```

Prepares different Linux file systems (ext2, ext3, reiserfs)

```
mkfs -t ext2 /dev/hda4    Format an ext2 file system
mkfs -t ext3 /dev/hda4    Format an ext3 file system
mkfs.msdos /dev/hdb3      Format a VFAT16 file system
mkfs.msdos -F 32 /dev/hdb3 Format in VFAT32 file system
mkreiserfs /dev/hdb1      Format in reiserfs file system
```

Display used/free space on all mounted drives

```
df -h      (human = better readable with K, M=megabytes and G)
```

Display used space in a specific Directory

```
du -sh /home    Reports only the used space (-s) of /home human format(-h)
```

Display all local storage devices and their properties

```
fdisk -l      (only as root)
```

Checks ext2 file system on a partition

```
e2fsck -f /dev/hda4    Forces (-f) checks ext2 filesystem
fsck -f ext3 /dev/hda3 Forces (-f) checks ext3 filesystem
reiserfsck /dev/hda4   Checks a reiserfs file system
```

X-Windows Programs

Display used/free space on all drives in /etc/fstab

```
kdf    Graphic representation of free space on each partition
        And allows to mount devices by double-clicking on them
        It's NOT any more Available on SuSE Distribution
```

List used space per Directories

```
kdirstat    Scans recursively selected directory
kdiskfree  Shows graphically the hard disks free space
or
kwickdisk
```

Displays recursively file/directory list and their size

```
kdu    A bit like kdirstat but less elegant.
```

Display programs that use files in /mnt directory:

```
lsdf | grep /mnt
```

To Kill all processes that uses a mounted filesystem to free it up before unmounting it.

```
fuser -km /dev/hda5
```

To convert an ext2 partition to ext3 Journaling filesystem.

The following command can be issued for either mounted or unmounted partition:

eg. /dev/hda5

```
tune2fs -j /dev/hda5
```

After issuing this command:

1. If the partition was mounted then the `.journal` file will be created in the root directory of the partition. This file will be made hidden on next boot.
2. If the partition was not mounted then a hidden journaling file will be created.

Note: Remember to change the `/etc/fstab` to coincide with the new filesystem format for this partition.