

RHEL: Back-up/Replicate a partition table

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Tested on RHEL 5, 6 & 7

Given the importance of disk's partition table, one should consider to make a backup

in a regular basis in order to be able to restore it in case it will get corrupted,

modified or deleted by mistake.

We may still have the data unchanged on the disk but without a correct partition table

it may be almost impossible to recover it.

To get a disk's table partition we can use the '**fdisk -l**' command:

fdisk -l /dev/sda

```
Disk /dev/sda: 32.2 GB, 32212254720 bytes
255 heads, 63 sectors/track, 3916 cylinders
Units = cylinders of 16065 * 512 = 8225280 bytes
```

Device	Boot	Start	End	Blocks	Id	System
/dev/sda1	*	1	33	265041	83	Linux
/dev/sda2		34	1958	15462562+	8e	Linux LVM
/dev/sda3		1959	2088	1044225	8e	Linux LVM
/dev/sda4		2089	2349	2096482+	5	Extended
/dev/sda5		2089	2349	2096451	83	Linux

This output may be stored in a text file. Then we could use this

```
information to
# recreate partitions manually.

# Apart from this method we may use 'sfdisk' command to inject
partition table to
# a disk:
# First we get disk's partition table to a text file (-d for "dump"):
```

```
sfdisk -d /dev/sda
```

```
# partition table of /dev/sda
unit: sectors
```

```
/dev/sda1 : start=      63, size=   530082, Id=83
/dev/sda2 : start=   530145, size= 30925125, Id=8e
/dev/sda3 : start= 31455270, size=  2088450, Id=8e
/dev/sda4 : start= 33543720, size=   4192965, Id= 5
/dev/sda5 : start= 33543783, size=   4192902, Id=83
```

```
sfdisk -d /dev/sda > sda_partition_table
```

```
# and then, when needed, we could restore the partition table to the
disk:
```

```
sfdisk /dev/sda < sda_partition_table
```

```
# Force option, '-f', may be useful in certain cases where a normal
update is not possible
```

```
# Tip: We can use 'sfdisk' to replicate a partition table from a
disk to another disk with
# the same geometry:
```

```
sfdisk -d /dev/sda | sfdisk [-f] /dev/sdb
```

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