

# 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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