
Subject: Re: Partitions corrupted on a drive
Posted by [Mac User #330250](#) on Fri, 30 Dec 2016 09:33:23 GMT
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Hi again, Neal!

On 2016-12-30 08:20, W. Neal Lewis wrote:
> It is a bootable drive in a G4 PPC running 10.4.11.

Yes, but which model is it exactly?

In System Profiler you should find a string like "PowerMac3,4" or similar. As said, anything prior to "PowerMac3,5" -- but ONLY the 2002 model! -- doesn't support drives >128GB, at least not without a hack.

You can check on

http://www.everymac.com/systems/apple/powermac_g4/index-powermac-g4.html
for the exact model also.

> All partitions are currently accessible. However, both Apple's Disk
> Utility and DiskWarrior cannot do repairs to the bootable partition or
> another partition on the same drive.

On a booted system, they never can.

My advice is that you boot up with an installation disc of Mac OS X 10.5 Leopard, use its Disk Utility (it can be started from the menu).

Also, if this really is a LBA (Logical Block Addressing) issue, then every optical boot disc will only see partitions below the 128GB barrier. This does not mean that they are corrupted. The statement "only the first two partitions are accessible" suggests it could be just that and your partitions are alright. Then, all you really need is the registry hack for LBA48 and boot the Leopard installation disc for Disk Utility to see all the partitions, and from there you will be able to repair all your partitions, including the boot partitions of the installed Mac OS's.

> I will check the alternative solution. Thanks for passing it on.

Before you do that, please do check on the command line with diskutil/pdisk.

1) Start Terminal.

2) Type: "sudo diskutil list" (without the hyphens, may also work without the "sudo")

<http://osxdaily.com/2009/12/01/list-all-mounted-drives-and-their-partitions-from-the-terminal/>

3) you can also try pdisk, see

<https://developer.apple.com/legacy/library/documentation/Darwin/Reference/ManPages/man8/pdisk.8.html>

The command would look something like "sudo pdisk --list /dev/rdisk0"

Can you pass the output along?

- > In order to save the information I will need to put in a different
- > second drive with enough space to back up the entire drive which has
- > the problems.
- >
- > I would then check it, wipe it down, reformat, and repartition it.
- >
- > It is used with OS 9.2 as well since I have some old but important
- > programs which will only run under actual OS 9. The software
- > manufacturers did not upgrade to OSX.
- >
- > So, the disk has to be partitioned in small enough segments for OS 9.2
- > to read when I boot from OS 9.2.2.

AFAIK the partition size limit of Mac OS 9 is not that small at all: it should be around 200 GB.

<http://lowendmac.com/2014/how-big-a-drive-does-mac-os-9-support/>

For HDD capacity limits in general, this is also a very interesting read:
<http://lowendmac.com/2014/maximum-hard-drive-size/>

I hope you will finally be able to get your partitions repaired.

Cheers,
Mac User #330250 aka Andreas

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