

DIFFERING CAPABILITIES OF DIFFERENT DISTROS OF LINUX

SUMMARY:

We have never succeeded in our attempts to use an "Ubuntu 11.04" Linux LiveCD to repair failed hard drives from "Windows.." computers.

We have had success in 60 percent of our attempts to use the "Parted Magic" Linux LiveCD to repair failed hard drives from "Windows.." computers.

Our Linux SIG co-leader Dennis McCormick highly-recommends the use of a "Knoppix" Linux LiveCD for repairing failed hard drives so we will try it in the future.

FAILED ATTEMPT TO USE "UBUNTU 11.04" LINUX TO REPAIR A FAILED NTFS HARD DRIVE:

Using an "Addonics" USB external drive enclosure, we attached a failed 6-year-old 160 Gigabyte Samsung hard drive, to a "Ubuntu 11.04 64-bit" virtual machine. The "Ubuntu.." virtual machine failed to "see" the failed NTFS hard drive. We then attached the failed NTFS to a "Ubuntu 11.04 32-bit" virtual machine and this virtual machine also failed also.

"Ubuntu 11.04" has a set of command line programs called "ntfsprogs".

In this set of programs, there is one called "ntfsfix" which can repair failed NTFS hard drives. However, we were unable to get our "Ubuntu 11.04 64-bit" computer to recognize our failed hard drive so the "ntfsfix" utility was not usable for us.

SUCCESSFUL ATTEMPT TO USE "PARTED MAGIC" LINUX TO REPAIR A FAILED NTFS HARD DRIVE:

Using an "Addonics" USB external drive enclosure, we attached a failed 6-year-old 160 Gigabyte Samsung hard drive, to a "Parted Magic 6.1" virtual machine. Both the "Partition Editor" ("GParted") and "PCFileMan" utility programs were able to "see" the failed NTFS hard drive. While running these two utility programs, we were able to get the failed hard drive partially repaired. After re-installing the failed hard drive back into the original "Windows XP" computer, the "chkdsk" utility immediately started running when we powered up the "Windows XP" computer. After "chkdsk" finished performing repairs, the NTFS hard drive was functional and "Windows XP" booted up successfully.

USING "KNOPPIX" LINUX TO REPAIR A FAILED NTFS HARD DRIVE:

We have not attempted to use "Knoppix" Linux to repair our failed NTFS hard drive.

Our Linux SIG co-leader Dennis McCormick has often used "Knoppix" Linux to repair failed NTFS hard drives. Many discussion group posters and bloggers have verified that "Knoppix" is a competent distro for repairing NTFS hard drives.

See

<http://www.zdnet.com/blog/btl/drive-failure-yagotta-try-knoppix-first/3214>

and

http://www.ehow.com/how_4690469_ntfssys-errors-using-linux-livecd.html

and

<http://raviratlami1.blogspot.com/2008/06/how-to-recover-corrupted-ntfs-data.html>

and

<http://www.shockfamily.net/cedric/knoppix/>

and

<http://www.datarecoverytutorial.com/how-to-recover-files-from-laptop-with-crashed-windows/>