fdisk Cheatsheet

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Quick reference for fdisk commands: list disks, create partition tables, add partitions, change partition types, write changes, and quit safely

fdisk is a menu-driven Linux tool for creating and managing disk partition tables. This cheatsheet covers the command-line options and interactive commands you need to list disks, create GPT or MBR tables, add partitions, change partition types, and save or discard changes.

Basic Usage

Open a disk or print partition tables.

`sudo fdisk /dev/sdX`	Open a disk in interactive mode
`sudo fdisk -l`	List all detected partition tables
`sudo fdisk -l /dev/sdX`	List one disk partition table
`sudo fdisk --help`	Show command-line options
`sudo fdisk --version`	Show fdisk version

List Disks

Identify the correct device before changing partitions.

`lsblk`	Show disks, partitions, and mount points
`lsblk -d -o NAME,SIZE,MODEL`	Show whole disks only
`lsblk -f`	Show filesystems and UUIDs
`sudo fdisk -l`	Show partition tables with disk labels
`sudo fdisk -x /dev/sdX`	Show detailed partition information

Interactive Commands

Commands used inside the `fdisk` prompt.

`m`	Show help menu
`p`	Print the current partition table
`n`	Create a new partition
`d`	Delete a partition
`t`	Change partition type
`l`	List available partition types
`w`	Write changes and exit
`q`	Quit without saving

Partition Tables

Create a new disk label before adding partitions on a blank disk.

`g`	Create a new GPT partition table
`o`	Create a new MBR (DOS) partition table
`p`	Review the current table before saving
`w`	Write the new table to disk
`q`	Exit without writing changes

Create Partitions

Common answers while creating a new partition with `n`.

`n`	Start a new partition
`Enter`	Accept the default partition number
`Enter`	Accept the default first sector
`+1G`	Create a 1 GiB partition
`+100G`	Create a 100 GiB partition
`Enter`	Use the rest of the available disk space
`p`	Print the proposed layout
`w`	Save the changes

Partition Types

Set the partition type when the partition is not a regular Linux data partition.

`l`	List partition types
`t`	Change a partition type
`Linux filesystem`	Regular Linux data partition (GPT)
`Linux swap`	Swap partition (GPT)
`EFI System`	EFI System partition (GPT)
`Linux LVM`	LVM physical volume (GPT)
`Linux RAID`	Linux RAID member (GPT)
`83`	Regular Linux partition (MBR)
`82`	Swap partition (MBR)
`8e`	LVM partition (MBR)

Review and Save

Check the in-memory table before writing it to disk.

`p`	Print the pending partition table
`v`	Verify the partition table
`i`	Show details about a partition
`w`	Write changes to disk and exit
`q`	Quit without saving changes

Format and Mount

After writing the partition table, create a filesystem and mount the partition.

`sudo mkfs.ext4 /dev/sdX1`	Format a partition as ext4
`sudo mkswap /dev/sdX2`	Create swap on a partition
`sudo swapon /dev/sdX2`	Enable swap
`sudo mkdir -p /mnt/data`	Create a mount point
`sudo mount /dev/sdX1 /mnt/data`	Mount the partition
`lsblk -f`	Confirm filesystem and mount details

Safety Checks

Commands that help avoid editing the wrong disk.

`lsblk -d -o NAME,SIZE,MODEL`	Compare disk names, sizes, and models
`lsblk -f`	Check existing filesystems and mount points
`sudo fdisk -l /dev/sdX`	Review the current table before editing
`mount | grep /dev/sdX`	Check whether partitions are mounted
`sudo umount /dev/sdX1`	Unmount a partition before changing it
`sudo partprobe /dev/sdX`	Ask the kernel to re-read the table

Related Tools

References for the full workflow around disks and partitions.

`mount`	Mount and unmount filesystems
`mkfs.ext4`	Format a partition with a filesystem
`df`	Check filesystem disk usage
`fsck`	Check and repair filesystems