

## **A Leash for Windows 95**

I found it! Thanks to Skip Douglas, KA9DDN, my problems (and, perhaps yours) are solved. Skip and I were sitting next to each other at the Ozaukee Radio Club's weekly Saturday breakfast, when he waxed enthusiastic about a new program he had purchased. As I listened, it became apparent that it might "leash" Win95, and give me the added bonus of painlessly partitioning my 1.6 gigabyte hard drive so that I would not lose all that space due to overhang. I got my own copy, and you know what? It works beautifully! Its called Partition Magic (version 3) by PowerQuest Corporation, Orem, Utah (800-965-7576; [www.powerquest.com](http://www.powerquest.com)), but you can also find it in most catalogs and stores that sell software. The list price is \$69.95 (well worth it) but I paid \$49.99 from the Comp USA catalog. I predict this program will hit the top ten in sales within the next year. DOS's FDISK program is history!

Let us suppose you have a 1.2 Gb drive, all one big C: partition devoted to Windows 95, and you have about 200 Mb of data and programs on it. After installing Partition Magic, click on Win95's START, then PROGRAMS, then PARTITION MAGIC BY POWERQUEST folder, then the PARTITION MAGIC 3.0 icon (just follow the very well done manual that comes with the program). A slider bar will appear on your screen, showing the C: partition. The first job is to create space to make new partitions. Slide the bar down to 400 Mb. Your C: drive has just been reduced in size to 400 Mb, and your overhang space has been reduced from 32 to 8 kb! Typically, you have reduced the wasted space on your hard drive from 50% to 10%. That simple!

Next, you need to install Boot Manager, a program from IBM, which is included in the Partition Manager package. How do you do it? Click on INSTALL BOOT MANAGER while still in Partition Magic. Easy as pie. Then you tell the program to add your current C: partition to the Boot Manager menu, and to name that partition whatever you like Win95, NewWin or the like).

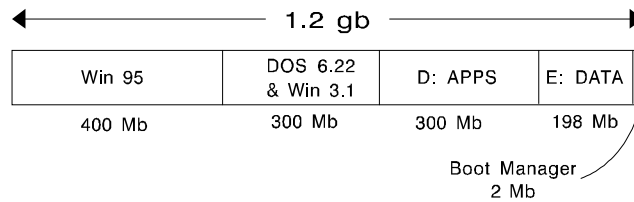
Now, suppose you want another partition to be plain old vanilla MS-DOS 6.22 and Windows 3.1. While still in Partition Magic, tell it to create another primary partition of 300 Mb, add it to the Boot Manager menu, and name it, perhaps DOSWIN. You now have two separate C: drives, each completely hidden from the other. When starting your machine, you can select one or the other to be active. You can copy the MS-DOS 6.22 and Windows 3.1 files to the DOS partition later.

Well, you have used up about 702 Mb so far (400 Mb for Win95, 300 Mb for DOS/Win3.1 and 2 Mb for the Boot Manager). What do you do with the rest? What I suggest (also suggested in the very well written program manual) is that you create two more extended partitions, a D: and an E: drive. Use D: for programs and applications that can be run from either Win95 or DOS (this drive will be available to whichever C: partition you boot at startup). The E: drive, also available no matter which C: drive you boot, is for data.

I suggest you begin by allocating 300 Mb to D: and the remainder to E:. It's easy as pie. Just tell Partition Magic to create an extended partition of 300 Mb and to name it APPS (applications) or PROGS (programs) or whatever you would like. Do the same for E: with the remainder of the available space and name it something like DATA.

I haven't given you all the details here. The manual that comes with the program is very thorough and will do that job for you. Another step you may need to take is to use the Drive Mapper part of the program to quickly and easily change the drive letter references in all your programs, so that once you begin moving your common programs to D:, they will work properly. It will also change the drive letter of your CD ROM so that it will work as expected. Everything possible is detailed in the manual, and I suggest you at least skim it cover to cover before you begin. That will ensure a trouble free installation.

But supposing you do follow these guidelines. What will you have gained? Take a look at the new map of your hard disk below:



First, you will have both Windows 95 and your old DOS/Windows 3.1 on the same machine. You will be able to boot to either one, as you choose, with the benefits of both. Your application programs will be on drive D:, accessible to both operating systems. A big benefit is that your data (spreadsheets, letters - whatever you create) will be on a separate drive (E:). You have segregated your finished work from the programs in a very logical way, and it will ease the backup process significantly. You should remember to back up everything on E: frequently. You will probably even be able to back it up to floppies; it will not be very large. Still another large benefit is that you have gained back huge amounts of space on your drive by reducing overhang from 32 kb to 8 kb (4 kb for drive E:). And the neatest thing of all is that you can later change the size of any of these partitions on the fly, whenever you want to! Just run the program from Win95, move the slider bar as you wish, and it's done; just amazing! That means that, as your need change, you can change the proportion of your hard drive given to one partition or another. In other words, you can change the size of D: or E: or either C: drive, without loosing data, whenever you like. Total flexibility. That's the way working with computers should be.

My sincere thanks go to Skip for sharing his discovery with me, and with you.  
Happy computing!