

Re-partitioning as Part of a Deployment Solution

Best Practices

Document Highlights

This document describes partitioning as a part of a strong deployment policy and touches on resolving several common partitioning issues: preparation of a model (master) computer for deployment, post-configuration operations after deployment.

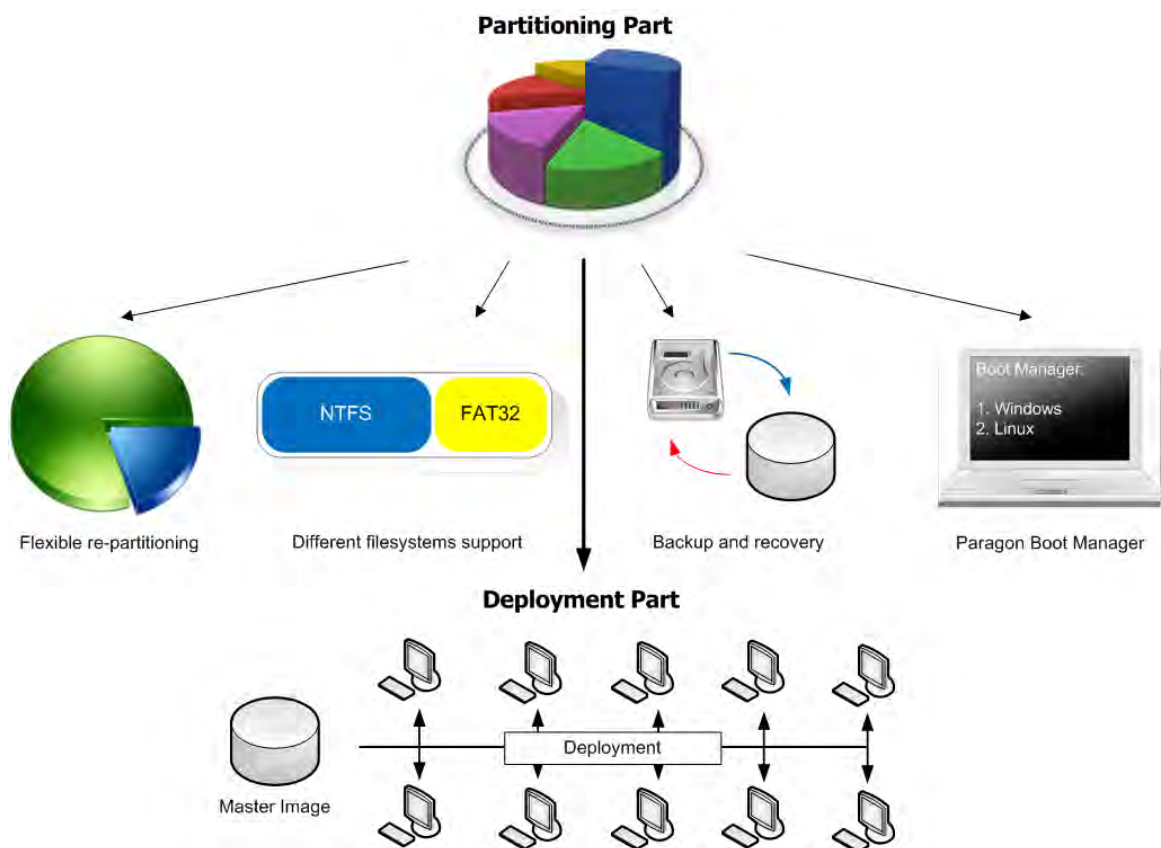
Deployment Policy Overview

Deployment addresses several different tasks related to the management of a large number of computers. The main advantage of deployment is its ability to replace the monotonous toil involved with repeat processes in various situations, such as:

- Master image deployment to many computers of the same kind
- End-user support and remote technical assistance
- Fast recovery and system duplication in computer classrooms or internet cafes

A well thought out and effective deployment policy will save employees time, increase utilization of computer resources and increase company profits.

Partitioning is one of the crucial aspects of a deployment policy and shouldn't be ignored or underestimated. Well designed partition schemes add positive effects to data security and system productivity. For example, separating the operating system, data and archives partitions provides a major benefit to your data security in the event of a virus attack, software failure or accidental user actions.



Partitioning and Deployment

Let's see how partitioning technology helps to create a master image for use in future deployments. The master image is an archive file consisting of the existing software environment on a master computer. The master computer is the basis for creating a number of identical computers — targets for deployment.

Initial Environment Creation

To create a master software environment you can perform several operations:

- Define the partitioning scheme on the master computer's hard drive(s). The master PC's hard disks can be partitioned for MBR, GPT or Dynamic disks. Various file systems are supported, including: NTFS, FAT16/32, Ext3FS, HFS+, etc.
- You can install one or several operating systems on the master PC.
- If it's necessary you can update the existing boot manager.

All the previous operations can also be performed on a bare-metal computer under a special multiplatform boot environment, which boots up the computer from an optical disc, a USB flash drive or over the network.

Re-partitioning the Existing Environment

If you already have partitions with data and want to reconfigure them, you can perform one of the following operations:

- Resize and/or move partitions
- Merge partitions or redistribute the free space between them
- Convert the file system of a partition or change partition attributes: e.g. mark active/inactive, hide/unhide, mount/unmount

Once all preparations are completed, you can back up the software environment of the master computer to an image file.

Deployment

The next step is image deployment, which includes several components and technologies.

- Booting computers over a network with help of Paragon PXE Server
- Translating data over a network using unicast or multicast protocols
- Customization of the Recovery Environment used for image deployment. You can add your own scripts, applications and functions to deploy your own data and perform supplemental operations
- Create customized post-configuration scenarios using Paragon Scripting Language. Script files can be easily generated automatically or manually within a text editor
- Deploy images to computers with diverse hardware using Paragon's Adaptive Imaging Tools

After the master image is deployed, you can also use partitioning best practices to tune up the software environment and change partition schemes manually or automatically with help of post-configure scenarios or customized Recovery Environments.

Conclusion

Paragon's partitioning technology allows you to prepare well-designed and efficient system images for deployment, configure already deployed environments accordingly to your own requirements with maximum speed and efficiency.

For more information or to schedule a product demo, please email sales@paragon-software.com or call 1-888-347-5462