Change a Master Boot Record Disk into a GUID Partition Table Disk

163 out of 206 rated this helpful

Applies To: Windows 7, Windows Server 2008 R2

Master boot record (MBR) disks use the standard BIOS partition table. GUID partition table (GPT) disks use unified extensible firmware interface (UEFI). One advantage of GPT disks is that you can have more than four partitions on each disk. GPT is also required for disks larger than 2 terabytes.

You can change a disk from MBR to GPT partition style as long as the disk does not contain any partitions or volumes.

You cannot use the GPT partition style on removable media, or on cluster disks that are connected to shared SCSI or Fibre Channel buses that are used by the Cluster service.

Backup Operators or **Administrator** is the minimum membership required.

> ✎ **Note**
>
> Before you convert disks, close any programs that are running on those disks.

Changing a master boot record disk into a GUID partition table disk

- Using the Windows interface
- Using a command line

To change a master boot record disk into a GUID partition table disk using the Windows interface

1. Back up or move the data on the basic master boot record (MBR) disk you want to convert into a GUID partition table (GPT) disk.

2. If the disk contains any partitions or volumes, right-click any volumes on the disk and then click **Delete Partition** or **Delete Volume**.

3. Right-click the MBR disk that you want to change into a GPT disk, and then click **Convert to GPT Disk**.

To change a master boot record disk into a GUID partition table disk using a command line

1. Back up or move the data on the basic master boot record (MBR) disk you want to convert into a GUID partition table (GPT) disk.

2. Open an elevated command prompt (right-click **Command Prompt**, and then click **Run as Administrator**) and type `diskpart`. If the disk does not contain any partitions or volumes, skip to step 6.

3. At the **DISKPART** prompt, type `list disk`. Make note of the disk number you want to convert.

4. At the **DISKPART** prompt, type `select disk <disknumber>`.

5. At the **DISKPART** prompt, type `clean`.

> ◆ **Important**
>
> Running the **clean** command will delete all partitions or volumes on the disk.

6. At the **DISKPART** prompt, type `convert gpt`.

Value	Description
list disk	Displays a list of disks and information about them, such as their size, amount of available free space, whether the disk is a basic or dynamic disk, and whether the disk uses the master boot record (MBR) or GUID partition table (GPT) partition style. The disk marked with an asterisk (*) has focus.
select disk *disknumber*	Selects the specified disk, where *disknumber* is the disk number, and gives it focus.
clean	Removes all partitions or volumes from the disk with focus.
convert gpt	Converts an empty basic disk with the master boot record (MBR) partition style into a basic disk with the GUID partition table (GPT) partition style.

Additional references

- Command-line syntax notation

Was this page helpful?   ⊙ Yes   ⊙ No

Community Additions

perfecto

It works, and I managed to learn something new.

Thanks

umairatta
12/24/2013

Convert a non-system disk to GPT

If convert between MBR and GPT with using diskpart, it needs to clean the disk as empty. If there are some parts on a disks, another freeware: PartitionAssistant Lite can support to convert a non-system disk to GPT.

saryli
5/1/2013

Tried this and it still only sees 2TB not 3TB

I tried this and it said it changed it from MBR to GPT. Then I went to load Windows 7 and it shows the 3TB drive as a 2TB drive just as it did when it did when it was MBR. So what else can be the problem?

jbstorey
1/31/2012

Clarification Please...

THIS IS NOT TRUE. You can use GPT disks in 2008 R2 clusters.

"*You cannot use the GPT partition style on removable media, or on cluster disks that are connected to shared SCSI or Fibre Channel buses that are used by the Cluster service.*"

Are you sure about this? This seems to say otherwise http://download.microsoft.com/download/3/B/5/3B51A025-7522-4686-AA16-8AE2E536034D/Windows%20Server%202008%20Failover%20Clustering%20Architecture%20Overview.doc.

Most of this stuff seems cut-and-pasted from the server 2003 documentation.

enterprise vault
10/8/2011