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XenServer 6: Disable GPT and get a larger root partition

January 13, 2012 By Major Hayden — 21 Comments

XenServer 6 is a solid virtualization platform, but the installer doesn't give you many options for customized configurations. By default, it installs with a 4GB root partition and uses **GUID Partition Tables (GPT)**. GPT is new in XenServer 6.

I'd rather use **MBR partition tables** and get a larger root partition. If you want to make these adjustments in your XenServer 6 installation, follow these steps after booting into the **XenServer 6 install disc**:



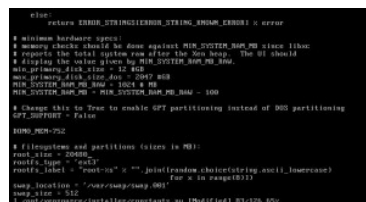
When the installer initially boots, press F2 to access the advanced installation options.



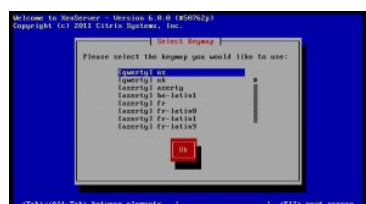
Type **shell** and press enter. The installer should begin booting into a pre-installation shell where you can make your adjustments.



Once you've booted into the pre-installation shell, type **vi /opt/xensource/installer/constants.py** and press enter.



Change **GPT_SUPPORT = True** to **GPT_SUPPORT = False** to disable GPT and use MBR partition tables. Adjust the value of **root_size** from 4096 (the default) to a larger number to get a bigger root partition. The size is specified in MB, so 4096 is 4GB. Save the file and exit **vim**.



Type **exit** and the installer should start.

Once the installation is complete, you should have a bigger root partition on a MBR partition table:

```
# df -h /
```



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```
Filesystem      Size  Used Avail Use% Mounted on
/dev/sda1        20G   1.8G   17G   10% /
# fdisk -l /dev/sda

Disk /dev/sda: 160.0 GB, 160041885696 bytes
255 heads, 63 sectors/track, 19457 cylinders
Units = cylinders of 16065 * 512 = 8225280 bytes

   Device Boot      Start         End      Blocks   Id  System
/dev/sda1  *           1         2611     20971520    83  Linux
/dev/sda2             2611         5222     20971520    83  Linux
/dev/sda3             5222        19457    114345281    8e  Linux LVM
```

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**Matthew Baltera** · 17 days ago

Anyone know how to pass the disable-gpt option during a PXE install.

```
LABEL sfcolo-xenserver-7.0-auto
kernel mboot.c32
append xenserver/7.0/xen.gz dom0_max_vcpus=4 dom0_mem=1024M,max:1024M watchdog
com1=115200,8n1 console=com1,vga --- xenserver/7.0/vmlinuz xencons=hvc console=tty0
nosplash answerfile=nfs://x.x.x.x:/nfs/xenserver/7.0/70_sf_answerfile.xml install --- xenserver/7.0/install.img
disable-gpt
```

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**kojo owusu** · 20 days agohow do i save the changes.I typed exit at the end nothing happen.
please help

· Reply · Share

**Criggie** · 2 months ago

Good stuff - the other option is to install XenServer Dundee, which is the beta for XS6.6 The default root partition size there is 18 GB.

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**Jake** · 6 months ago

Thanks! I just had to to change the GPT_SUPPORT for it to work.

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**dsclose** · 9 months agoBe warned, XenServer updates will revert any partition resizes possibly causing severe dataloss. See the XenServer blog for details: <http://xenserver.org/blog/entr...>

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**witkacy26** · a year ago

The same can be applied permanently in ISO file by editing the file install.img. Notice that this file is gzipped. You may use any hexeditor or uncipio/cipio the contents.

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**webshell** · 2 years ago

partition size in sectors(-41326538) is negative

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**Jacek** · 2 years ago

Tested on XenServer 6.2.0. Resizing partition is working, changing type to MBR, not. Thx for the hint.

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**David** · 2 years agoMany thanks. this page help me proceed to finish my project
I appreciate you. ^)^

But, I,m worrying there is no problem using Xenserver 6.2 with this conditions after all done from this page

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**Jeffrey T** · 2 years ago

Hi Major. Could you please modify your page to indicate why you are disabling GPT? Is it necessary or just a personal preference? Are there any downsides the reader needs to consider, such as the maximum size of a file in a file system created with an msdos disk label? Thanks.

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**Ari Magalhaes** · 2 years ago

Hi everyone,

My machine has 32GB of RAM and I was trying to install Xen 6.2 in a 16GB CF card, but even after set "GPT_SUPPORT to False" and root_size=13312 (1024 * 13)" I was facing the same problem as "Partition size in sectors is negative" and I was unable to finish installation.

After try many times using different root sizes, I was able to finish installation just after I had unchecked all "[]" for all disks on "Virtual Machine Storage" screen.

It is a very nice Blog! Congratulations!

Ari.

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**shaddana** · 2 years ago



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