

EFI System partition

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The **EFI System partition** is a partition on a data storage device that is used by machines that adhere to the Extensible Firmware Interface. It contains the boot loader programs for all operating systems installed (in other partitions) on the device, device driver files (used by the firmware at boot time) for other devices, and system utility programs that are intended to be run before an operating system is booted^[1].

The EFI System Partition is formatted using a variant of the FAT format. The Globally Unique Identifier for the EFI System Partition in the GUID Partition Table scheme is C12A7328-F81F-11D2-BA4B-00A0C93EC93B. Its ID in the MBR Partition Table scheme is 0xEF. Whether a disk contains an EFI System Partition is unrelated to the partition table scheme (GUID or MBR) that it uses.

Microsoft recommends that when partitioning a disk, the EFI System Partition be the first partition on the disk.^[2] This is not a requirement of the EFI specification itself. On Windows XP and later, access to the EFI System Partition is obtained by running the `mountvol /s` command.

On Apple's Intel-based Macintosh computers, the EFI partition can be deleted without ill effect. The system will still boot, and the boot manager will still allow users to choose whether to start a Boot Camp partition or the default Mac OS X. This could indicate that Apple does not yet take advantage of all the possible uses of the 200MB EFI partition on Intel-based Macs.

See also

- System partition and boot partition

References

- ↑ EFI specification, version 0.99
- ↑ "EFI System Partition" (http://www.microsoft.com/whdc/device/storage/GPT_FAQ.msp). *Windows and GPT FAQ*. http://www.microsoft.com/whdc/device/storage/GPT_FAQ.msp.

External links

- "EFI System Partition Subdirectory Registry" (http://www.uefi.org/specs/esp_registry). *UEFI*. http://www.uefi.org/specs/esp_registry. — a registry of the subdirectories that lie below the `/EFI` directory on an EFI System Partition

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