

# Disk Imaging

Who, What, When, Where, Why

(and maybe How)

February 9th, 2010

Manitoba UNIX Users Group

Adam Thompson - [athompso@muug.mb.ca](mailto:athompso@muug.mb.ca)

**WHO**

# WHO

- Users
- System Administrators
- Tech Support
- Vendors

**WHAT**

# WHAT

- Reading an exact copy of a disk or partition
- Writing that to another disk, or CD/DVD, or file
- Writing that image back to a disk or partition

**WHERE**

# WHERE

- While running Linux (or another OS)
- Boot from CD
- Boot from floppy
- Boot from network
- Boot from USB key

# WHERE

- On the source machine
- On the target machine
- On a transfer machine
- Over the network on two or three of the above

**WHEN**

# WHEN

- Replacing a hard drive
- Replacing a computer
- Backing up a hard drive
- Testing
- Resizing partitions

**WHY**

# WHY

- VERSUS Reinstalling:
  - Can be *much* faster
  - Keeps preferences
  - Implicitly creates a backup

# WHY

- VERSUS Copying:
  - Can be *much* faster
  - Can't lose any files
  - Implicitly creates a backup

# WHY

- VERSUS “dd if=/dev/hda”:
  - Much faster
  - Much smaller
  - Easier to manage multiple images
  - Multicast & Broadcast

**HOW**

# HOW

- Norton/Symantec Ghost
  - The “gold standard”
- Acronis TrueImage
- DriveImageXML
- SelfImage [free]

# HOW

- Apple Software Restore
- Apple Disk Utility
- Carbon Copy Cloner
- SuperDuper!

# HOW

- PartImage
  - CloneZilla (uses PartImage)
  - SystemRescueCD (ditto)
  - PING (ditto)
- g4u
- G4L

# HOW

- Demo if time (and equipment!) permits...