

WINDOWS VISTA DISK PARTITIONING

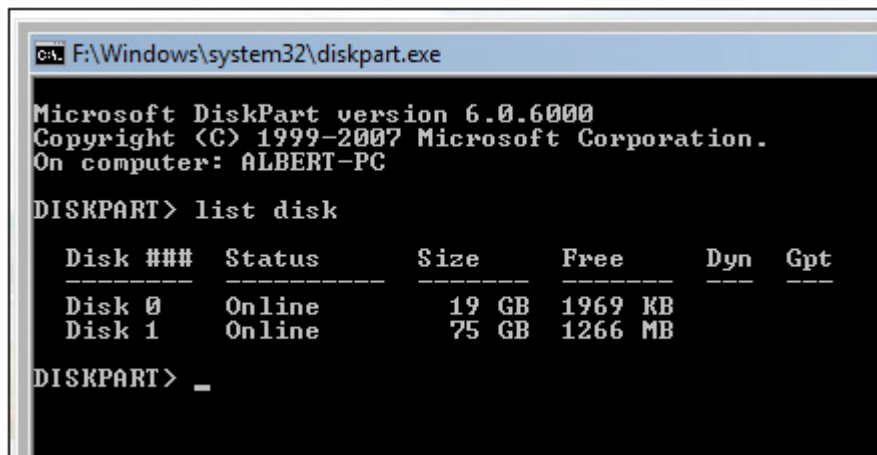
By Mark E. Donaldson

Windows Vista's Disk Management tool can be quite deceiving. It allows you to work with partitions at ease in a presentable GUI format, but there are problems. Windows Vista grays out the **extend volume and shrink volume** properties. However, there is an alternative way to work with partitions, allowing you to easily **resize, delete, and create partitions**. **Diskpart.exe** does a very good job at working with partitions, and unlike the Disk Management tool Diskpart actually works.

NOTE: Before continuing, make sure that you have backed up all important files.

NOTE: Do not run diskpart.exe with Dynamic Disks.

1. First, open the Start Menu and type **diskpart.exe**. This will open a command-prompt. At this window, type **list disk**. This will list all your available hard disks.



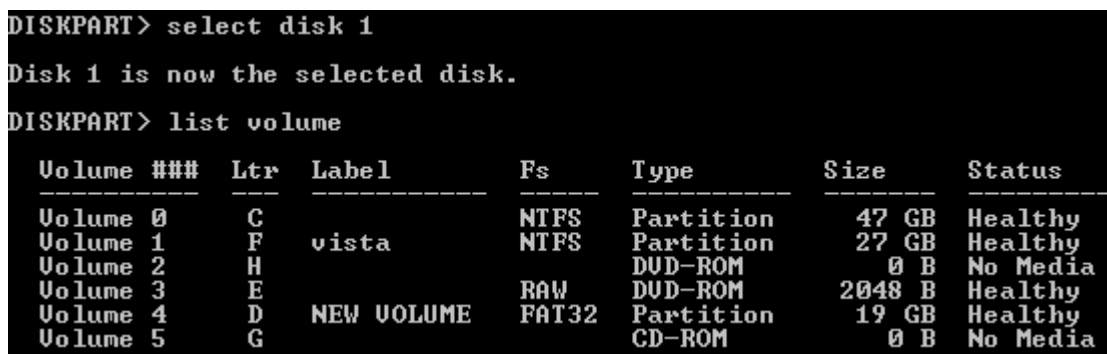
```
ca: F:\Windows\system32\diskpart.exe
Microsoft DiskPart version 6.0.6000
Copyright (C) 1999-2007 Microsoft Corporation.
On computer: ALBERT-PC

DISKPART> list disk

   Disk ###  Status         Size           Free           Dyn  Gpt
   -----  -
   Disk 0    Online         19 GB          1969 KB
   Disk 1    Online         75 GB          1266 MB

DISKPART> _
```

2. Proceed by typing **select disk <disk number>** to select the disk you want to work with.



```
DISKPART> select disk 1
Disk 1 is now the selected disk.
DISKPART> list volume

   Volume ###  Ltr  Label           Fs          Type          Size          Status
   -----  -
   Volume 0    C    NTFS            NTFS        Partition     47 GB         Healthy
   Volume 1    F    vista           NTFS        Partition     27 GB         Healthy
   Volume 2    H    DUD-ROM        DUD-ROM     0 B           No Media
   Volume 3    E    DUD-ROM        DUD-ROM     2048 B        Healthy
   Volume 4    D    NEW VOLUME     FAT32       Partition     19 GB         Healthy
   Volume 5    G    CD-ROM         CD-ROM      0 B           No Media
```

3. At this point in time, you can create a partition. Type **create** and a set of new options will be presented to you. To proceed, just type **create <new option>**. (e.g. **create volume**)

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Primary: Primary partitions are limited to **four** per hard disk. If you are planning to install an operating system into a partition, you'll want to choose primary since it is the only one that can be made bootable.

Extended: If you are planning to have more than four partitions, you'll want to work with extended. An extended partition counts towards the limit of four, but you are then allowed to create **logical volumes** within these extended partitions. You'll want to use extended partitions for backup or storage purposes only since they are **not bootable**.

4. Now we want to see which number is associated with the volume we want to work with. To obtain this list, type **list volume**.
5. Select the desired volume by typing: **select volume <number> or select partition <number>**. You then have a list of options to choose from. Below is a list of commands you can type in depending on what you want to do with your selected volume. If you don't input a number for size, the program will automatically use all the space available for your operation. For the purpose of this tutorial, I have decided to work with 10GB. (**1000MB = 1GB**)
 - **Shrink desired=10000 minimum=2000** Shrinks the volume by 10GB. If that's not possible, this command makes sure that you at least shrink the volume by 2GB.
 - **Extend size=10000**
 - **Delete Partition**
 - **Format**