How-to-mount WD My Book Pro Edition II in CentOS 5

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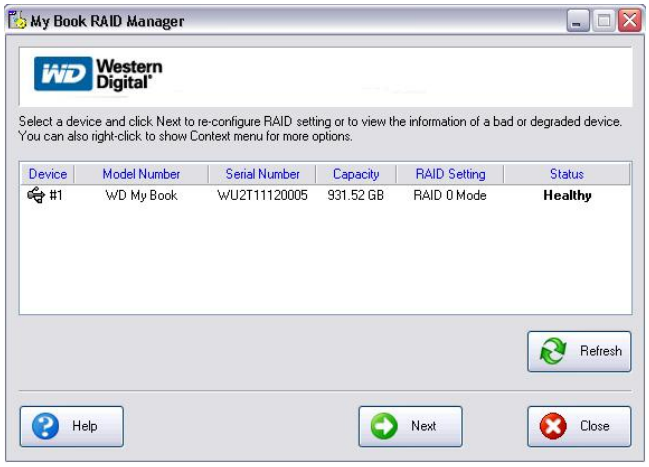
Recently, our research group purchased four 1TB external hard disks, WD My Book Pro Edition II to back up our resources. Right after trying to mount the disk, we found that it is preformatted for HFS+ (Journaled) file system, which is the standard volume format for Mac OS X. Since none of lab computers has Mac OS, it becomes nontrivial job to mount for Windows and Linux computers. A Linux computer (CentOS 5) can automatically recognize the disk but writing permission is not allowed. A Windows computer even can not recognize it. If we aim to use the external disk just for linux box, we may simply install HFS+ Linux driver, one of which can be download from http://www.ardistech.com/hfsplus. However, because it is desirable to use the disk in both Linux and Windows computers, it seems to be better way to format it as NTFS file system and make Linux computers have full access to NTFS. This short how-to report will explain whole procedure step-by-step.

1 NTFS Format of My Book

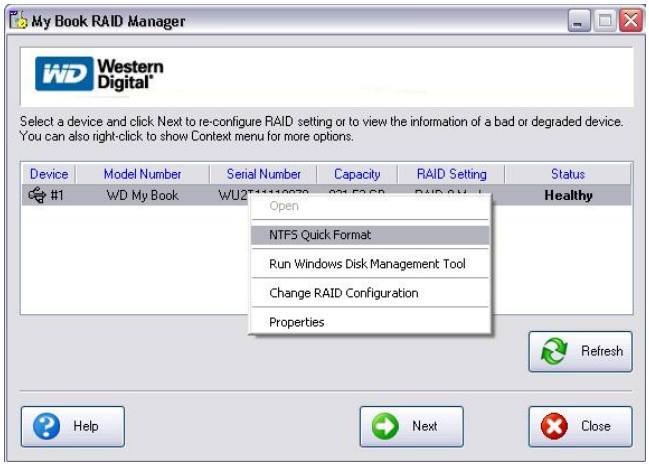
1. In a Windows box (Win XP), install My Book Raid Manager from the installation CD that comes with the external disk. You will see the image below right after inserting the CD to CD drive. Click Install My Book RAID Manager in the menu.

2. Once the installation is done, the following icon will be created on the desktop. By double-clicking the icon, run RAID manager program.

3. If the external disk is connected through USB, you will see the following image.



4. Click the right mouse button on the item to pop up sub-menu. In the sub-menu click NTFS Quick-Format.



Once the format is done, you should get full access on the disk from Windows machine.

2 Access NTFS file system for Linux

Basically, centOS 5 one of Linux distributions that is installed in our lab computers does not support NTFS file system.

```
# mount /dev/sdb1
mount: fs type not supported by kernel
```

For the full access to NTFS file system, we have to install additional driver such as kernel-integrated driver or `ntfs-3g` driver. For detail, you need to read another How-To report, How-to-access NTFS from CentOS 5. After installing kernel-integrated driver, you see the file system below.

```
$ df -lh
Filesystem            Size  Used Avail Use% Mounted on
/dev/mapper/VolGroup00-LogVol00
                      143G  109G   27G  81% /
/dev/sda1              99M   28M   66M  30% /boot
tmpfs                 505M     0  505M   0% /dev/shm
/dev/sdb1             932G  188G  744G  21% /media/My Book
```

If you install `ntfs-3g` driver, the file system looks like

```
# df -lh
Filesystem            Size  Used Avail Use% Mounted on
/dev/mapper/VolGroup00-LogVol00
                      143G  109G   27G  81% /
/dev/sda1              99M   28M   66M  30% /boot
tmpfs                 505M     0  505M   0% /dev/shm
/dev/sdb1             932G  188G  744G  21% /mnt/windows
```

References

[1] http://wdc.custhelp.com/cgi-bin/wdc.cfg/php/enduser/std_adp.php?p_faqid=207&p

[2] http://www.tomrafteryit.net/western-digital-my-book-pro-edition-ii-sucks/

[3] http://linu.gs/misc/remember/wd-mybook-1TB-on-linux.php