

## Re: Seeing VERSIONINFO under Vista?

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*Source:* <http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/VC/microsoft.public.vc.mfc/2007-05/msg01885.html>

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- *From:* Joseph M. Newcomer <[newcomer@xxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:newcomer@xxxxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Thu, 24 May 2007 23:22:53 -0400
- 

FAT was never reliable under any OS.

I tell my driver students, "assume that at any reboot cycle your entire hard drive will disappear in a puff of greasy blue smoke. Therefore, you NEVER debug a driver on a machine that contains ANYTHING you care about. You keep all your source on another machine. Your driver debug machine is ALWAYS to be considered 100% sacrificial, no exceptions." Only the most naive programmer would ever consider debugging a device driver on a live machine (one that has anything on it that matters in the slightest).

A couple times a year, we lose a machine to a student error. They manage to clobber something that destroys the root directory or something equally unpleasant. I unpack the spare machine, plug it in, they spend five minutes reconfiguring it, and they're back at work. Meanwhile, I'm re-ghosting the machine they clobbered (takes about 35 minutes) so if they nuke it again, we'll still have a running machine. Of course, they'll have to wait a while longer if they nuke the second one before the ghosting completes. I've not had this happen.

joe

On Thu, 24 May 2007 19:48:49 -0700, "Alexander Grigoriev" <[alegr@xxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:alegr@xxxxxxxxxxxxx)> wrote:

I had files lost with FAT32 under Win2K. A friend of mine lost directory with source code if the driver he was debugging.  
But NTFS survived quite a lot of abuse, including memory errors.

"Joseph M. Newcomer" <[newcomer@xxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:newcomer@xxxxxxxxxxxxx)> wrote in message [news:tj6c53dp05uhgk5iioifvn7h8tb6imdfar@xxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:tj6c53dp05uhgk5iioifvn7h8tb6imdfar@xxxxxxxxxxxxx)

I had a lot of problems with FAT file systems, including one memorable night when it wiped the master boot record hours before I was supposed to leave on a trip with my computer. I spent six solid hours salvaging files. It Was Not A Fun Evening. I finished up ten minutes after the cab arrived to take me to the airport, at 4am (I fell asleep in the cab, which was good because we were going out in an ice storm, and the cab was all over the highway)

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On Thu, 24 May 2007 11:30:52 -0700, "David Ching"

<dc@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

"Joseph M. Newcomer" <newcomer@xxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message

[news:df6b531pbrrjmq1trfud9jae812jo77lor@xxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:df6b531pbrrjmq1trfud9jae812jo77lor@xxxxxxxxxxx)

Historical note: as recently as 2003, a certain large multinational company required that all machines be configured with a FAT file system under XP, "because it is more secure". This proves beyond all doubt that we are descended from monkeys, except for certain IT managers, who have not yet evolved. A friend of mine who worked there was told this when his computer was installed (the second day he worked there), and when he stopped laughing he typed 'dconvert' to a command shell to convert it to NTFS. When he was told 'you can't do that' he looked blank and said "but I just did!". Ultimately his group had the only NTFS-based systems in the entire company (even the servers were FAT, except for his group's servers).

I resisted NTFS for many years because it had poorer performance than a regularly defragmented FAT-32, especially if journalling is enabled, which it took a reg key to disable (don't know the case now). In addition, it was downright handy to use a Win98 boot disk to boot to DOS and be able to access files on drive C:. For me, the only reason to move to

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NTFS was its support of files larger than 4 GB, which I get regularly now that I record video using Media Center.

As for reliability, FAT-32 was plenty reliable. Even if you had to ScanDisk all the time. I rarely lost data that couldn't be recovered. BTW, you still have to Chkdsk even now after a crash, but in Vista, MS chose to display a blank screen when it's running. As if hiding the truth will somehow make the pain go away.

— David

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