

NTFS question – max number of files on root of C:?

Source:

http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Win2000/microsoft.public.win2000.file_system/2007-10/msg00000.html

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I always thought that NTFS did away with limitations on the number of files you can have in the root directory. Today I had a user that couldn't boot up to Win2K, the box just sits there with a blinking cursor before the normal splash screen has a chance to come up, and I figured the hard drive might have gotten hosed, so I mounted the drive as a slave (E:) in another computer to see if I could recover any data. When I went to the root of E: there were exactly 2,048 files there, mostly .csv and .txt files from data downloads from the past 3 or 4 years, in addition to the normal system files and app logs. Apparently somebody told this person that this is where she should put all of her data files. These were all one-off files that weren't needed anymore so I was able to blow them out and remount the drive as the master and Win2K boots normally again. The number 2,048 is an exact multiple of 4 times the 512 limit in FAT... no way this could just be a coincidence! I Googled this but couldn't find anything that points to a 2,048 file limit on NTFS. Not that this is a big deal or anything that we're likely to see again, but now I'm really curious.