

Re: Installation: doesn't see setup files on hard drive?

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<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Win2000/microsoft.public.win2000.general/2005-02/1830.html>

From: Frank W. (reply_to_newsgroup_at_please.ccom)

Date: 02/13/05

Date: Sat, 12 Feb 2005 20:35:59 -0600

Bruce – you are very thorough. I'll answer your questions, etc, below as best I can.

- > *Some BIOS's can only boot from the "Active" partition on the first hard*
- > *disk. In these BIOS's, this partition is often referred to as "C" in the*
- > *BIOS startup settings. Other BIOS's can be configured to boot from the*
- > *"Active" partition on other than the first hard disk. Whichever physical*
- > *disk the BIOS is set to boot from must have an appropriate Master Boot*
- > *Record and Partition Boot Record in the first partition plus an "OS" in that*
- > *partition; the message you are getting says, that whatever disk the BIOS is*
- > *attempting to boot from does not have appropriate information in the Master*
- > *Boot Record or the "Active" partition. In this context, the Windows Boot*
- > *Manager is an "OS". Windows setup will write the required information in*
- > *the "Active" partition on the first physical disk. If you change the BIOS*
- > *settings to actually boot from a different physical disk, Windows setup*
- > *won't know that and won't write the Master Boot record etc. on that disk.*
- >
- > *The usual way that the Windows multi-boot works is to have ntldr,*
- > *ntdetect.com and boot.ini are in the root of the file system in the "Active"*
- > *partition of whatever disk the BIOS is set to boot from. Most often, but*
- > *not always, this is the first partition on the first physical disk Then,*
- > *when you choose the particular OS installation you actually want to run, the*
- > *Windows Boot Manager loads and executes that OS.*
- >
- > *The drive letter to partition association is an artifact of the operating*
- > *system, not your computer's BIOS. Windows Setup enumerates the disks and*
- > *partitions and associates drive letters with the partitions in a fixed way.*
- > *If the physical arrangement of disks is modified, then Windows setup run*
- > *again, it will almost certainly show a different drive letter to partition*
- > *association.*
- >
- > *To go further, it is necessary to understand exactly the physical disk*
- > *configuration in your computer and the corresponding BIOS settings.*
- >
- > *So, what physical disks do you have installed? Please list them in the*
- > *sequence that your BIOS reports them.*

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> *Which physical disk are you attempting to install Windows on to?*

I was worried about those points you made above so I removed all drives except the one I want to install the OS on. It has just one partition. Actually I never had more than one drive in the computer – to keep things as simple as possible.

>

> *In the Windows setup, what physical disks and partitions are reported?*

Just the above drive with its single partition.

> *You mention something you see in Computer Management, System Info. This*

> *implies you have an operational OS on this computer.*

I have another drive with a working W2k OS that I'm writing this on. I was looking at the drive with this OS's Computer Management. I tried to format the drive with Fat/Fat32 so I could run a DOS prompt to the WINNT.exe file (that I copied to the drive from the CD along with everything else) but I can't even format this drive with anything except NTFS. Fdisk won't read NTFS. So I'm stumped again. Perhaps your boot disk instruction below would facilitate that?

> *During the OS installation process – e.g. between booting from the CD and*

> *the restart after the first part of the setup, are you physically*

> *re-arranging the disks or their cabling?*

No.

I should mention that it is a newer drive that I've used many times before as a slave. I have 3 other drives (80, 80 and 6gb) that I have tried the install process on with no success. So it's not the drive. Isn't it easier to install from the hard disk itself? Do I have to create a separate partition (D:?) to copy the files to so it can install them on C:?. This sure is getting complicated.....:)

I'll see how you respond to my responses to your questions above, before I go further.

> *If you have an operational Windows operating system, you can prepare a boot*

> *floppy that is sometimes useful to bypass the problem you are seeing. To*

> *create a boot floppy:*

>

> *1. logon to a Windows NT 4, 2000, XP or 2003 computer*

> *2. put a floppy disk into the floppy disk drive*

> *3. in Windows Explorer, right click on the floppy drive (A) and select*

> *Format*

> *4. DO NOT add a check mark to "Create an MS-DOS startup disk"*

> *5. a check mark in "Quick Format" is optional, but I suggest not adding one*

> *6. click Start*

> *7. when the Format is complete, copy the following files from the root of*

> *the "System Partition" (usually C, but not necessarily)*

> *ntldr*

> *ntdetect.com*

> *boot.ini*

>

> *Now, the boot.ini is specific to the particular computer's hard disk*

> *configuration and OS installations, so you may need to adjust it. Open it*

> *in Notepad.*

>

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- > You should see something like this:
- >
- > [boot loader]
- > timeout=10
- > default=multi(0)disk(0)rdisk(1)partition(1)\WINDOWS
- > [operating systems]
- > multi(0)disk(0)rdisk(1)partition(1)\WINDOWS="Operational XP D1P1"
- > /fastdetect /NoExecute=OptIn
- > multi(0)disk(0)rdisk(0)partition(3)\WINDOWS="2003 Ent R2" /noexecute=optout
- > /fastdetect
- >
- > For normal X86 type computers with IDE drives, the multi and disk parts are
- > not relevant; leave them as they are.
- >
- > The rdisk(n) specifies the physical disk number as enumerated by the
- > computer's BIOS – your BIOS will normally display the disks in the
- > enumeration order during POST. You should also be able to see this in the
- > BIOS's configuration panels. Only actual hard disks are counted, CD/DVD
- > drives etc. don't get a number. The numbering starts at 0. The Windows
- > Computer Management, Disk Management will also show the drive numbers. In
- > the bottom pane that shows the disks and partitions, the left most partition
- > on each drive is number 1.
- >
- > The partition(n) refers to the partition number. Partition numbering starts at
- > 1. The name after the "\" (e.g. WINDOWS in the above sample) is the name of
- > the folder in the root of the partition's file system that holds the OS. On
- > Windows NT 4 systems, this was typically WINNT. On Windows 2000 and later
- > it is typically WINDOWS.
- >
- > The part inside the quote marks is the human readable stuff displayed by the
- > Windows Boot Manager – you can make this whatever you like.
- >
- > The other strings (e.g. /fastdetect) are boot options. If in doubt, you can
- > usually do without any of these.
- >
- > If you boot from a floppy built in this way, you will get the Windows Boot
- > Manager menu showing the items in the [operating system] section of the
- > boot.ini. The content of the boot.ini is not validated by the Boot
- > Manager – it assumes it is correct.
- >
- > You can then select the OS you want to start. Naturally, if the info (e.g.
- > multi(0)...) is not correct, the selected OS won't load, but you will get
- > a specific message for this situation (e.g. "ntoskrnl.exe is missing or
- > invalid" means either there is no such file in the System32 folder in the
- > partition\folder specified by the boot.ini record or its corrupted).
- >
- > One other possible thing – you mention you have a new hard drive; the newer
- > faster IDE drivers might not work correctly unless you use an 80 conductor
- > cable, instead of the older 40 conductor cables.
- >
- > --

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> *Bruce Sanderson MVP Printing*
> <http://members.shaw.ca/bsanders>
>
> *It is perfectly useless to know the right answer to the wrong question.*
>
>
>
> *"Frank W." <reply_to_newsgroup@please.ccom> wrote in message*
> *news:376sioF5apvlmU1@individual.net...*
> *>I should mention that the exact error message when the system reboots after*
> *>copying files to the hard*
> *> drive is:*
> *> DISK BOOT FAILURE. INSERT SYSTEM DISK AND PRESS ENTER.*
> >
> >> *Also I noticed in Computer Management, System Information,*
> >> *Conflicts/Sharing that my Matrox Millennium*
> >> *G450 video card and Creative SB Live! Basic (WDM) are both mentioned on*
> >> *IRQ 11. And my Intel*
> > *82371AB/EB*
> >> *PCI to USB Universal Host Controller and Adaptec AHA-2940U2/U2W PCI SCSI*
> >> *Controlller are both mentioned*
> >> *on IRQ 5.*
> >>
> >> *I can't find any info in W2K about the motherboard. On the mb itself, it*
> >> *just says Asus P2B rev.1.04.*
> > *I*
> >> *went to Asus.com (I wonder what brain surgeon designed that website) and*
> >> *there are lots of P2B models*
> >> *(P2B98-XV, P2B-B, P2B-D2, etc) but only one that is P2B.*
> >>
> >> *I tried an old 6 gig drive - same thing.*
> >>
> >> > *There are 12 different model manuals for P2B. Do you know which one?*
> >> > *No, the*
> >> > *drive shouldn't matter.*
> >>
> >> > *| ASUS P2B rev 1.04*
> >> > *| Award Modular Bios v4.51 PG ACPI Bios Revision 1006*
> >> > *10/09/98*
> >> > *i440BX*
> >> > *|*
> >> > *| I am using a much newer hard drive than the motherboard. Is it*
> >> > *possible*
> >> > *that there is some*
> >> > *| incompatibility between the old motherboard and newer hard drive that*
> >> > *only*
> >> > *arises when installing an*
> >> > *| operating system? (But then I did also have that strange "E: is not*
> >> > *accessible. The parameter is*
> >> > *| incorrect" message on 2 newer hard drives after moving them around.*
> >>

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