

Re: Using sysprep on Win2K to unplanned different hardware

Source:

http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Win2000/microsoft.public.win2000.setup_deployment/2004-08/0184.html

From: Dennis Calhoun (*dcalhoun_at_blomand.net*)

Date: 08/28/04

Date: Sat, 28 Aug 2004 01:22:41 -0500

On Fri, 27 Aug 2004 14:22:52 -0400, "Michael Leone"

<mleone@contributionship.com> wrote:

>

>"Dennis Calhoun" <dcalhoun@blomand.net> wrote in message

>news:bdmti014rg82360evle6odapedv48kd0pg@4ax.com...

>>

[snip]

>The hard disks in the replacement machines will be connected to RAID

>controllers that are (almost certainly) not in that list. That list includes

>no Dell PERC RAID controllers, that I saw, and these machines will

>(probably, altho not defintely) be Dell machines, using Dell RAID

>controllers (altho I can not guarantee ahead of time with model RAID

>controller). So adding those drivers entries you speak of to the sysprep.inf

>wouldn't help me, in that situation, would it?

Not unless one of the generic drivers that is included with Win2000 would be enough to get the system booted in a minimally usable state.

If so, which I doubt, one could then use the Dell disk to install the correct driver/s. Not a likely scenario, but not impossible, maybe.

>

>> Also, in your distro you need to add the cmdlines.txt file to your

>> \$OEM\$ folder and in that file have the *first* command be

>> C:\Sysprep\Sysprep -clean

>> assuming you have Sysprep located in C:\Sysprep [adjust to fit your

>> location]

>

>My sysprep.inf file has all the IDE drivers listed (altho I also had to add

>a registry file with those same drivers, according to an MS KB article I

>found). This works for all machines I've tried, that are on machines with no

>SCSI controllers. Everytime I add the SCSI list to the sysprep.inf file

>(making no other changes), and re-do sysprep, it blue screens with "07B". If

>I remove the SCSI entries from the list, and leave just the IDE, it boots

>fine. Every time, on multiple models of hardware.

>

*>Never boots with both IDE and SCSI controllers listed. I even downloaded a
>sysprep.inf from the Net, from the author of the Windows 2000 Deployment
>Guide book ... still blue-screens. Every time, and on multiple models (IDE
>only, IDE and SCSI drives attached).*

Hmmm.... that's strange. I've made a syspreped image on a Dell GX100 that I've since cloned to GX150, GX1 and one of the Dimensions too, with a total of 5 or six different IDE controllers. Not once have I seen the blue screen with 07B as you have. Maybe just my luck, which could change unexpectedly.

Back to what you are trying to accomplish....

You say that you want this "one size fits all" image to use for fast fix D/R. How about this....

As each new batch of machines come in and you *know* what is in the box, make a "Ghosted only" clone of each different system type, just for the short run. Collect the necessary information and drivers/files from each set and once you have all you need for all of the whole lot, fire up your original Model System, add the files in the location you desire, make the necessary Sysprep.inf entries and registry changes (if needed) then make a new Master image. After some testing and fine tuning, deed done.

What I've been doing at our school is to make a Ghosted Only image of the original software package and configuration, an image of the whole disk, without using sysprep. I use this clean original to restore to the model computer prior to making any updated master images that are syspreped, to avoid potential problems, like accumulated duplicate entries in some registry values.

IN another post of mine I spoke of my inability to get anything that I enter in the \$OEM\$ tree to actually be DONE on a target computer. One thing that I've thought of *might* also interest you, but there is a glitch in your case that I will mention in a bit.

I am using Ghost 2003 for our cloning, don't have the luxury of the Corporate edition. I've thought that it might be possible to add something to a drive immediately after it has been restored from an image that is held on a mapped network drive in our peer-to-peer setup. In our case, I think this would be ok, because the things I want to import would be needed only after the mini-setup has ran its course (PnP drivers for peripheral devices). I *have* already found that once Ghost has completed writing the image to the target computer I can elect to click "continue" rather than "reset computer". It will then close the GUI of the Ghost executable and return to a command prompt. At that point the computer is still connected to the source computer, via the drive-mapping boot disk connection that was first established when I began the process. I THINK I should be able to use that command line interface to copy or xcopy additional directories or files from the source to the target drive, but I have not yet had time to test this idea.

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You could do that too, if it will work, but the glitch I see is in the registry entries. If you are comfortable with making such edits en mass, you could release the attributes on the hives and then import your edited version/s, along with all the necessary files, then reset the attributes. Seems like a lot of bother to me and I tend to think it would be easier to just make a new master image once you have collected everything necessary from the new systems.

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The universe is so huge and we are so small.
There is only one thing that we can truly control.
Whether we are good or evil.
Dennis C.