

Re: XP Partition and OS Questions

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.basics/2006-02/msg00171.html>

- *From:* "Nepatsfan" <nepatsfan@xxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Thu, 2 Feb 2006 18:57:12 -0500
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5788A540-3E25-4C86-A0C8-C3622BB4AEAA@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx,
Greatoutdoors <noname@xxxxxxx> wrote:

Thank you for your offer of help â?? gratefully accepted!

My boot.ini file says the following

```
[boot loader]
timeout=30
default=multi(0)disk(0)rdisk(0)partition(1)\WINDOWS
[operating systems]
multi(0)disk(0)rdisk(0)partition(1)\WINDOWS="Microsoft XP
Professional" /fast detect
/NoExecute=multi(0)disk(0)rdisk(0)partition(2)\WINDOWS="Microsoft
XP Professional" /fast detect
```

I ran â??Check All Boot Paths.â?? One turned out to be faulty as you suspected and the system offered to delete it. I accepted that choice and restarted the PC, which resulted in the message below.

"You have used the System Configuration Utility to make changes to the way Windows starts.

"The System Configuration Utility is currently in Diagnostic or Selective Startup mode, causing this message to be displayed and the utility to run every time Windows starts.

"Choose the Normal Startup mode on the General tab to start Windows normally and undo the changes you made using the System Configuration Utility.

"(Check Box) Don't show this message or launch the System Configuration Utility when Windows start: (Okay box)"

I clicked OK and now am back to square one. I don't recall earlier Windows OS's being this frustrating! If I checked

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the box saying "Don't show this message..." would that be the answer to making the change stick?

I figure if I take this one step at a time, and with your help, I may just get through it and learn something in the process!

ALso, thank you for you answer to the mysterious 8 MB of space and the no activation issue --- it seems so simple once you know what it is. (And makes me feel a bit stupid --- sorry about that!) I will take your advice and make a copy of the Reinstallation Disk.

As to the FAT32 partition --- that would be an "Oops"! It never occurred to me. I have played around in the past installing and reinstalling W2000 Pro on a Pentium 2 and purposely created both FAT32 and NTSF files. I think I had a brain freeze or flashback and just thought, "I created that one, though I dont know when, so I will just delete it now." Senility is not all its cracked up to be!

I have been to Control Panel and thought I had everything set, but I will try that again this evening and see what happens. I certainly could have missed something.

Do you think the easiest solution might be just to reinstall once more? I wonder if all this might be a Norton conflict of some kind and perhaps if I downloaded Microsoft updates first, then installed and updated Norton, it might give better results. What do you think?

Thanks again so much for walking me through this --- I know it is kid stuff to folks who know what they are doing!

You were on the right track. If you had checked the box next to "Don't show this message...", Windows would have kept the new boot.ini file which did not include the bogus installation. You would have been running under Selective Startup but that only means you're not using the original Boot.ini file.

An alternative approach, and the one I'd use, would be to edit boot.ini and remove the entry that msconfig flagged as invalid. The way to do that is to go to Control Panel -> System and click on the Advanced page. Next, hit the Settings button in the "Startup and Recovery" section. In "Startup and Recovery", click on the Edit button. Boot.ini will open in Notepad. First you want to make a copy just in case. Go to File -> Save as and save a copy as boot.old in your My Documents folder. Now go back and remove the invalid entry and click on File -> Save.

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Reboot and see if the issue has been resolved. If everything is now running properly you can delete the boot.old file.

Here's an article that outlines the procedure:

How to edit the Boot.ini file in Windows XP

<http://support.microsoft.com/default.aspx?scid=kb;en-us;289022>

No need to apologize for not being aware of the Dell activation and diagnostic partition issues. Even when Dell does include a manual with their systems they either don't mention or simply gloss over a lot of things that later have you scratching your head. Senility? No way!! Let's chalk it up to poor documentation.

Of the issues you outlined in your first post, the only one that's a real problem is the last one, the inability to download ActiveX components. Until you get this resolved, your system is seriously crippled. Since you were able to install Norton AV and run Live Update, you must have had the ability to install ActiveX at one point in time. This could be verified by opening the C:\Windows\Downloaded Programs Files folder. Odds are there are some entries there related to Norton AV. If so, that means that NAV is the source of your problem. I would be very careful about disabling NAV in order to download Windows updates. Make sure you have the Windows Firewall up and running before trying this.

If you find yourself spending a significant amount of time trying to resolve this ActiveX issue then reinstalling Windows may be the way to go. Since this is a new installation you don't have a lot to lose other than the time spent reinstalling. Hopefully, a second installation attempt will not result in the same problems.

Good luck

Nepatsfan

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