

Re: Can't boot XP NTFS HDD cloned from FAT32 HDD

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<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.basics/2006-02/msg01347.html>

- *From:* "Bob Harris" <[rharris270\[SPAM\]@hotmail.com](mailto:rharris270[SPAM]@hotmail.com)>
 - *Date:* Mon, 20 Feb 2006 14:06:46 -0500
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Usually cloning software preserves the partition type (FAT32 or NTFS). It may offer to expand the partition to fill the entire hard drive, but it usually does not offer to change the partition type. This is because disk cloning usually involves copying the boot record, as well as the data on the disk. Thus, is it possible that the partition you formatted as NTFS was reverted to FAT32 during the cloning process? If so, I am not at all certain that a 300 Gig FAT32 partition will work without some problems.

Going back to the option to make a smaller (<127Gig) FAT32 partition, then cloning to it, that should work. The extra space should then be available to be partitioned by XP itself, via its disk management tool. You could format that spare space as NTFS, in one or more partitions. I have mixed FAT32 and NTFS partitions on a single drive, and XP has never complained.

By the way, cloning software that I have used has offered to clone as the same size, so again pre-formatting should not be necessary.

I would avoid special overlay features, since those are less reliable than simple partitions.

In theory, you could convert to NTFS first, then clone to one big NTFS partition. Again, you should not have to pre-format, if all you want to do is clone one disk to a bigger disk. The cloning process should handle the details.

"likes_dals" <likesdals@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message news:66BF362A-FBD4-401C-9633-05EC38BC40C1@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

When my XP's 120 GB HDD (FAT32) started making strange noises I bought a Seagate 300 GB PATA w/16MB cache to replace it. Seagate's Disk Wizard for Windows (DWFw) copy utility gives you no choice but to format the new drive NTFS. But for some reason the new drive when jumpered and cabled as master as instructed after cloning won't boot.

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If used as a properly jumpered slave to the 120 GB (jumpered as master) all my files can be seen and are intact. I'm not knowledgeable enough to determine the specifics of why the 300 GB won't boot even though I apparently have access to all files.

Using Seagate's alternate DOS-like "Starter Edition" copy utility I did create a bootable FAT32 clone (limited to 127 GB size) on the 300 GB just to confirm it was functionally OK. Use of their On-Track Disk Drive Overlay (DDO) and alternate capacity (AC) jumper setting will allow access to the full capacity of the disk by using an additional partition but Windows Hibernation does not function normally (it acts like a warm reboot – unacceptable to me). DDO I'm sure will cause me some heartburn someday too.

Seagate was contacted; they questioned why the 120 GB was formatted as FAT32 in the first place. I don't know – it was that way when I bought the machine. Their engineer mentioned that I could convert the 120 GB to NTFS and then try DFWW again or I could try tricking the DFWW to create a bootable FAT32 by telling it the source disk OS is 98 or ME. From what I've read some people use FAT 32 with XP so it can't be all bad and I can see nothing wrong with converting to NTFS. I don't use or plan to use any other OS other than WinXP SP2.

From what I've read converting 120 GB to NTFS and then using DFWW seems the best way to go following all the usual backup caveats seen in these posts. My Intel board's BIOS and 845 chipset seem to support the 48-bit addressing and LBA that a large drive requires. SP2 is installed on the XP box now.

I'd be appreciative to read any advice on why I should stay with FAT32 on the 300 GB disk or convert the 120 GB to NTFS and then clone it to the 300 GB. Thank you!
Marty