

Re: Windows XP Home Edition SP2 NTFS

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.basics/2006-09/msg00935.html>

- *From:* Bruce Chambers <bchambers@xxxxxxxxxxxxx>
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Jot wrote:

I have just converted from FAT32 to NTFS.

Does Windows XP Home Edition SP2 support and recommend the use of NTFS?

Thanks to all those who reply.

Personally, I wouldn't even consider using FAT32 when NTFS is an option. FAT32 has no security capabilities, no compression capabilities, no fault tolerance, so support for files larger than 4 Gb (videos, anyone?), and a lot of wasted hard drive space on volumes larger than 8 Gb in size. (Just try finding a hard drive that small, nowadays.) But your computing needs may vary, and there is no hard and fast answer.

To answer your questions without getting too technical is difficult, but has been handled quite well by the late Alex Nichol in the article here:

FAT & NTFS File Systems in Windows XP

<http://www.aumha.org/a/ntfs.htm>

Somewhat more technical information is here:

Limitations of the FAT32 File System in Windows XP

<http://support.microsoft.com/directory/article.asp?ID=kb:en-us:Q314463>

Choosing Between File Systems

<http://www.microsoft.com/technet/treeview/default.asp?url=/TechNet/prodtechnol/winntas/tips/techrep/filesyst.asp>

NTFS file system

<http://www.digit-life.com/articles/ntfs/>

You can safely convert your current hard drive to NTFS whenever desired, without having to format the partition and reinstall everything. As always when performing any serious changes, back up any important data before proceeding, just in case. A little advance preparation is also strongly recommended, so you can avoid any performance hits caused by the default cluster size:

Converting FAT32 to NTFS in Windows

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<http://www.aumha.org/a/ntfscvt.htm>

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Bruce Chambers

Help us help you:

<http://dts-l.org/goodpost.htm>

<http://www.catb.org/~esr/faqs/smart-questions.html>

They that can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety.
–Benjamin Franklin

Many people would rather die than think; in fact, most do. –Bertrand Russell

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