

Re: Recovery from obsolete BIOS

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.basics/2008-01/msg00509.html>

- *From:* "William B. Lurie" <billurie@xxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Sun, 20 Jan 2008 11:22:14 -0500
-

To close the issue, with thanks to all.....my practical solution is to do nothing with the old backups. I make a new one every few weeks or so, and they all boot fine. If it should come to pass that I need something off a backup from a non-booting recovery point, I'll have time then to take more drastic steps. I'm wearing a belt, and will probably never need the suspenders.

William B. Lurie wrote:

Thanks, Bob, for the complete run-down. And to others for pitching in.
Bill L.

Bob Harris wrote:

As others have replied, you need a real XP CD to perform a repair, and that is almost 100% required when switching hardware.

Further, even if you get that to work, XP's activation will sense the new hardware and give you something like 3 days to activate or stop working. If the underlying version of XP is OEM, it is not meant to be transferred and re-activation will probably fail.

You have begun to realize that "price" for using OEM/pre-installed versions of XP: They are good only on the hardware on which they were originally installed!

All that said, you should still be able to recover personal files, including any programs that you downloaded and saved as installers (like SETUP.EXE, or *.MSI). GHOST has an option to mount an image as a file system, after which you can simply copy&paste files/folders from the image back onto the hard drive of the new PC.

But, as a matter of organization/safety you should separate personal files from the operating system and installed programs. Separate partitions are one of the best ways to accomplish this. Personal files may be irreplaceable, but a PC+OS can always be purchased for some price, and not a very high one

Re: Recovery from obsolete BIOS

these days. Further, once separated, you can backup your personal files by a simple copy&paste, or by the command line program XCOPY, which comes with XP. An external USB disk, DVDs, etc are good places to store a backup copy of personal files. Hard drive imaging, like GHOST, is only required for the system partition. Most users have a much larger volume of personal files than system files, but the personal files do not tend to change frequently; it is more common to add to them than to change them. And, additions occur frequently, almost daily. In contrast, operating s