

Re: Reconfigure For Dual Boot

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http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.configuration_manage/2007-03/msg00038

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 - *Date:* Mon, 5 Mar 2007 12:16:25 -0800
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Partition Magic may do it. Should be at Best Buy, Circuit City, etc. Read box to verify its particulars.

"Pete B" <petescastle@xxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message news:u4bNNuzXHHA.4008@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

I am currently running WinXP Pro on my stand-alone home PC, with the HDD installation configured for XP as the only operating system. IOW, I only have one NTFS partition on my HDD which contains the bootable XP operating system. I also have a great amount of other MS and third-party Windows software applications installed. (And I love XP pro too, this has nothing to do with XP dissatisfaction, I think it is great.)

What I would like to do is to reconfigure the PC hard drive so that I can install a second operating system (Ubuntu Linux). Is there any way to do this without completely removing XP, reformatting and repartitioning the HDD to two dual boot partitions, and reinstalling XP from scratch set for dual boot? I cannot simply image the drive and redo it because that would just reinstall the system the way it is now. I have a 120G HDD and I have about 70G free space now, so HDD capacity is not a problem. From what I have read in the Help file and the MSKB, the only way to do this would entail losing all my current software installations permanently, and above all I do NOT want to go through the ordeal of reactivating my WinXP and other MS and non-MS software licenses if I have to redo everything from scratch.

If it is not possible, I am considering two alternatives:

1) I could buy software like Partiton Magic or similar, and use that to make virtual partitions and transform to dual boot. I actually have an older version of Part Mag, which I intended to use back in my Win 98 SE period on a previous PC, but I never actually used it because I was always afraid it might end up causing a HDD meltdown nightmare somehow . Is that software reliable for something like this if I were to get the current version? Meaning is there any reasonable chance it would corrupt my HDD rather than do what it is supposed to do, and would it in any way cripple my system in some respect?

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2) I have that old W98SE PC sitting around unused, an older but suitable P2 system, which I could simply redo by deleting the W98 and reformatting etc. and make it a totally Linux machine, and