

Re: Partitioning with /Disk Management

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<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.customize/2006-01/msg00554.html>

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mas wrote:

Thanks. That answers that question.

With so many manufacturers not offering the OS CDs anymore, does microsoft offer an easy way to make new installation disks from the existing installation? Or is this something that can only be handled via my manufacturer's (Dell) system restore program? My concern is that I don't want to reinstall all the Dell junk applications, just a clean XP install.

Look, in the last 15 years or so, MS has made it a habit of somehow integrating into the OS software that was successful in a specific area, a practice strongly objected to by many companies and considered illegal in many countries and in the EU (make a quick search on Google if you are curious). MS does not need to be encouraged to do this, and in the process, to kill initiative and creativity.

I remember one utility specifically which allowed to compress a whole partition into a single file (Stacker, read http://www.atarimagazines.com/compute/issue133/82_Stacker.php), that made popular compressing disks, at a time hard disk space was a hot commodity. If I remember, a year later, it was integrated into Win 95. Today, the list of such utilities is endless, and the net result, even if you overlook the way their integration was achieved, was to stifle small companies with smart products.

What you want to do will be best achieved by Partition Magic (my favorite, from Powerquest, bought by Symantec but apparently no longer developed)

http://www.symantec.com/home_homeoffice/products/system_performance/pm80/index.l
and by Acronis Disk Director

<http://www.acronis.com/homecomputing/products/diskdirector/>
very well supported, but IMHO less user friendly.

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This being said, it is a shame 20G, according to you, are wasted in a so called recovery partition. Call Dell and insist on a recovery DVD, knowing that actually a single CD holding the Dell OEM version of XP would be enough since drivers can always be downloaded when needed. I am one of those users who strongly resent, 1/ paying for an OS each time I buy a machine, even if I already own it, 2/ not being given a recovery DVD when I buy a machine.

Now you decide which way to go, it is a free country!

John Doue