

Re: Me to XP upgrade – advice/products questions

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.general/2004-02/1608.html>

From: Griff (*anonymous_at_discussions.microsoft.com*)

Date: 02/14/04

Date: Sat, 14 Feb 2004 14:49:55 -0800

Ken Blake ---

Thanks for your excellent and detailed response.

As it turns out, coinciding with my operating system malfunctions, there are other reasons why I want to upgrade to XP (ipod, among them). So, ME's apparent problems happened at an opportune time.

I do understand the risks and work involved with clean reinstallation, and have recently backed up all my personal data to cds in case of emergency.

I will be going the XP upgrade route.

Thanks again.

>-----Original Message-----

>In news:1047501c3f33e\$1b512310\$a001280a@phx.gbl,

>Griff <gdamfino@optonline.net> typed:

>

>> A two part question:

>

>

>And I've supplied a long multi-part answer.

>

>

>> (I'm on Windows ME with Microsoft Works Suite 2001.)

>>

>> Due to a problem, my computer tech support recommends that

>> I reinstall my Windows ME operating system using the

>> original discs.

>

>

>I wouldn't be quick to believe him. You might want to get a

>second opinion. Tech support people often recommend that you

>reformat and reinstall. That's the perfect solution for
them. It
>gets you off the phone quickly, it almost always works, and it
>doesn't require them to do any real troubleshooting (a
skill that
>most of them obviously don't possess in any great degree).
>
>But it leaves you with all the work and all the problems. You
>have to restore all your data backups, you have to
reinstall all
>your programs, you have to reinstall all the Windows and
>application updates, you have to locate and install all the
needed
>drivers for your system, you have to recustomize Windows
and all
>your apps to work the way you're comfortable with. Besides all
>those things being time-consuming and troublesome, you may
have
>trouble with some of them: can you find all your
application CDs?
>Can you find all the needed installation codes? Do you
have data
>backups to restore? Do you even remember all the
customizations
>and tweaks you may have installed to make everything work
the way
>you like?
>
>Occasionally there are problems that are so difficult to solve
>that Windows should be reinstalled cleanly. But they are
few and
>far between; reinstallation should not a substitute for
>troubleshooting; it should be a last resort, to be done only
>after all other attempts at troubleshooting by a qualified
person
>have failed.
>
>
>
>> Under the circumstances, I'm considering
>> buying Windows XP instead -- either the upgrade or full
>> replacment product.
>>
>> 1) Is it more fool proof to simply invest in the full
>> package Windows XP, rather than reinstalling ME and then
>> upgrading to XP?
>
>
>
>You're making a false assumption. Contrary to what many people
>think, you can do a clean installation with an upgrade

version.

>You don't have to reinstall Me first.

>

>The requirement to use an upgrade version is to *own* a previous

>qualifying version's installation CD (not an OEM restore CD), not

>to have it installed. When setup doesn't find a previous

>qualifying version installed, it will prompt you to insert its CD

>as proof of ownership. Just insert the previous version's CD, and

>follow the prompts. Everything proceeds quite normally and quite

>legitimately.

>

>So since you qualify for the upgrade, that's what you should buy,

>since it's cheaper. The two contain exactly the same software.

>

>Your question really should be, should you do a clean

>installation or an upgrade. Although many people will tell you

>that formatting and installing cleanly is the best way to go, I

>disagree. Unlike with previous versions of Windows, an upgrade to

>XP replaces almost everything, and usually works very well.

>

>My recommendation is to at least try the upgrade, since it's much

>easier than a clean installation. You can always change your mind

>and reinstall cleanly if problems develop.

>

>However, don't assume that doing an upgrade relieves you of the

>need to backup your data, etc. before beginning. Before starting

>to upgrade, it's always prudent to recognize that things like a

>sudden power loss can occur in the middle of it and cause the

>loss of everything. For that reason you should make sure you have

>backups and anything else you need to reinstall if the worst

>happens.

>

>

>> 2) Will the new XP system recognize the previously

>> installed MS Works Suite 2001 software?

>

>

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>If you do an upgrade, yes. If you do a clean installation, no.

>

>

>> If I need to

>> reinstall Works Suite 2001, will it be compatible with the

>> XP operating system?

>

>

>Yes.

>

>

>> Is it essential that I upgrade that

>> too -- to either Work Suite 2003 or Office?

>

>

>No.

>

>

>--

>Ken Blake – Microsoft MVP Windows: Shell/User

>Please reply to the newsgroup

>

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