

Re: Norton Go Back vs Win XP System Restore

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<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.general/2004-07/1475.html>

From: *Vanguard* (*reply-to-newsgroup_at_do-not-email.invalid*)

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ECLiPSE 2002 said in news:75p6e011fh1nadelee6qarhqhmjiumho5g@4ax.com:

- > *I have read numerous articles about the merits of the recovery*
- > *utility Go Back. Win XP has a system restore utility built in.*
- > *Can someone explain what the basic differences are and what*
- > *features/advantages Go Back has vs System Restore.*
- >
- > *Thanks for any insights,*
- >
- > *Mary*

System Restore monitors installs and lets you revert to a state before the install or change. GoBack usurps the bootstrap program in the MBR (master boot record) on the first physical hard disk found by the BIOS, so Goback is far more pervasive (or invasive) to your system as it can affect any OS installed in any partition. As such, GoBack displaces the standard bootstrap program or anything else that also wants to usurp the bootstrap code in the MBR, like disk overlay managers (for an old BIOS that doesn't support large capacity drives), like Ontrack's or Maxtor's utilities, boot managers, like Bootmagic, some security products, like SafeBoot, that provide encryption security before the OS even loads, or anything else that wants to become the bootstrap program. That means you must make a choice between these mutually exclusive utilities. I hear SafeBoot will move the current bootstrap code, usurp the MBR for its bootstrap code, and then chain to the moved old bootstrap code (so it is not mutually exclusive with anything currently in the bootstrap code portion of the MBR). GoBack doesn't do this so it is mutually exclusive of everything if it is the last MBR-usurping utility installed.

I realize "backups" is an alien concept to most consumer-grade computer users. But if you perform regular backups (file backups for logical recovery and disk images for physical disaster recovery), especially before performing some major surgery, like adding or changing hardware or installing a major or invasive program, and along with using System Restore, then you really don't need GoBack.

GoBack is useful to those users that are too lazy to perform backups and tries to automatically cover their butts. Obviously the GoBack restore information has to go somewhere. If it supports removable media, like CD-Rs, then what would be the point of using it since you could then perform a disk image yourself? If you have multiple disk drives then obviously the safe method would be for GoBack to save its restore data on a physical drive different than for the partition that it is recording the changes; otherwise, if the hard drive goes bad with defective sectors or dies then so, too, does all your Goback restore data. If GoBack is saving its restore data within the same partition (i.e., on the same drive) as for the partition it is recording then its restore data is just at risk as any other file in that partition or on that same drive. At that point, just use System Restore instead of GoBack.

According to

<http://www.winnnetmag.com/Articles/Index.cfm?ArticleID=22945>, System Restore will NOT let you recover document files but GoBack supposedly monitors and records incremental change data for all disk activity (which would presumably mean GoBack usurps more resources and will probably get more in your way of using your computer). Well, guess what is the purpose of the NT Backup utility. File versioning is a mainframe concept yet to filter down into consumer-grade operating systems, like Windows. You can read a test lab report of GoBack at <http://www.etestinglabs.com/clients/reports/roxio/default.asp?visitor=X>. Roxio has since sold off Goback to software predator Symantec. Also, the report compares GoBack against Windows ME's System Restore (among other products) rather than against Windows XP's System Restore. If you look at the table at

<http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/pro/evaluation/whyupgrade/featurecomp.msp>

supposedly Microsoft improved System Restore in Windows XP over what was provided in Windows ME, and although

http://www.microsoft.com/resources/documentation/windows/xp/all/proddocs/en-us/app_system_restore_hss_understa
and

<http://www.microsoft.com/technet/community/newsgroups/faqsrxp.msp>

describe System Restore in Windows XP, I don't know what the improvements would be other than I hear System Restore is less a resource hog under Windows XP than under Windows ME.

Since System Restore comes free with Windows XP, and since you have NT Backup for document backups (yes, you can even get it for Windows XP Home off its CD or from

<http://www.onecomputerguy.com/software/ntbackup.msi>), why waste the money on GoBack?

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