

Re: Converting from Fat32 to NTFS

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.general/2004-09/2994.html>

From: Mark (*noone_at_nowhere.com*)

Date: 09/02/04

Date: Fri, 3 Sep 2004 00:13:07 +1200

no problems when i did it...

i didnt know about the cluster size...

i dont know much more than that sorry...

<anonymous@discussions.microsoft.com> wrote in message
news:24fd01c48e15\$fcf2bb40\$a501280a@phx.gbl...

> *Mark thanks for the advice.*

> *I read that if you use the convert command that it may
> make the clusters 512bytes instead of the the normal 4kb
> in NTFS. It suggested that the partition should be
> realigned using a programme called BootIT and the drive
> defragged before using convert command. They also said
> that a conversion is not as good as a clean reinstall.
> What do you think and did you have any problems?
> Dave*

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

>>*this is a actually quite easy...*

>>

>>*i had to do this just the other week...just use the
> convert command (see
>>below)...*

>>

>>*hope this helps...*

>>

>>*cheers,*

>>*me.*

>>

>>*from the xp help :*

>>*Choosing between NTFS, FAT, and FAT32*

>>*You can choose between three file systems for disk
> partitions on a computer*

>>*running Windows XP: NTFS, FAT, and FAT32. Use the
> information below to*

>>*compare the file systems.*

>>

>>NTFS is the recommended file system for the following
> reasons:
>>
>> a.. NTFS is more powerful than FAT or FAT32, and
> includes features
>>required for hosting Active Directory as well as other
> important security
>>features. You can use features such as Active Directory
> and domain-based
>>security only by choosing NTFS as your file system.
>> b.. It is easy to convert partitions to NTFS. The
> Setup program makes
>>conversion easy, whether your partitions used FAT,
> FAT32, or the older
>>version of NTFS. This kind of conversion keeps your
> files intact (unlike
>>formatting a partition). If you do not need to keep your
> files intact and
>>you have a FAT or FAT32 partition, it is recommended
> that you format the
>>partition with NTFS rather than convert from FAT or
> FAT32. Formatting a
>>partition erases all data on the partition and allows
> you to start with a
>>clean drive.
>> Whether a partition is formatted with NTFS or
> converted using the convert
>>command, NTFS is the better choice of file system. For
> more information
>>about Convert.exe, after completing Setup, click Start,
> click Run, type cmd,
>>and then press ENTER. In the command window, type help
> convert and then
>>press ENTER.
>>
>> c.. In order to maintain access control on files and
> folders and support
>>limited accounts, you must use NTFS. If you use FAT32,
> all users will have
>>access to all files on your hard drive, regardless of
> their account type
>>(administrator, limited, or standard.)
>> d.. NTFS is the file system that works best with large
> disks. (The next
>>best file system for large disks is FAT32.)
>>There is one situation in which you might want to choose
> FAT or FAT32 as
>>your file system. If it is necessary to have a computer
> that will sometimes
>>run an earlier version of Windows and other times run
> Windows XP, you will

>>need to have a FAT or FAT32 partition as the primary (or
> startup) partition
>>on the hard disk. Most earlier versions of Windows
> cannot access a partition
>>if it uses the latest version of NTFS. The two
> exceptions are Windows 2000
>>and Windows NT 4.0 with Service Pack 4 or later. Windows
> NT 4.0 with Service
>>Pack 4 or later has access to partitions with the latest
> version of NTFS,
>>but with some limitations: It cannot access files that
> have been stored
>>using NTFS features that did not exist when Windows NT
> 4.0 was released.
>>
>>For anything other than a situation with multiple
> operating systems,
>>however, the recommended file system is NTFS.
>>
>> Important
>>
>> a.. Once you convert a drive or partition to NTFS, you
> cannot simply
>>convert it back to FAT or FAT32. You will need to
> reformat the drive or
>>partition which will erase all data including programs
> and personal files on
>>the partition.
>>The following table describes the compatibility of each
> file system with
>>various operating systems.
>>
>> NTFS FAT FAT32
>> A computer running Windows XP or Windows 2000 can
> access files on an
>>NTFS partition. A computer running Windows NT 4.0 with
> Service Pack 4 or
>>later might be able to access some files. Other
> operating systems allow no
>>access. Access is available through MS-DOS, all versions
> of Windows, Windows
>>NT, Windows 2000, Windows XP, and OS/2. Access is
> available only through
>>Windows 95 OSR2, Windows 98, Windows Millennium Edition,
> Windows 2000, and
>>Windows XP.
>>
>>
>>The following table compares disk and file sizes
> possible with each file
>>system.

>>
>> *NTFS FAT FAT32*
>> *Recommended minimum volume size is approximately*
> *10 megabytes (MB).*
>> *Volumes much larger than 2 terabytes (TB) are*
> *possible.*
>>
>> *Cannot be used on floppy disks.*
>> *Volumes from floppy disk size up to 4 gigabytes*
> *(GB).*
>> *Does not support domains.*
>> *Volumes from 512 MB to 2 TB.*
>> *In Windows XP, you can format a FAT32 volume up to*
> *32 GB only.*
>>
>> *Does not support domains.*
>>
>> *File size limited only by size of volume. Maximum*
> *file size is 2 GB.*
>> *Maximum file size is 4 GB.*
>>
>> *Note*
>>
>> *a.. Some older programs may not run on an NTFS volume,*
> *so you should*
>> *research the current requirements for your software*
> *before converting*
>> *<anonymous@discussions.microsoft.com> wrote in message*
>> *news:25f101c48e12\$8703b860\$a301280a@phx.gbl...*
>>> *I am using Windows XP Home Edition and my comp HD is*
>>> *formatted using Fat32. The comp HD is 40GB and is in*
> *two*
>>> *partitions. I have recently purchased a 60GB external*
>>> *drive which I wish to use for backup. This drive has*
> *been*
>>> *formatted using NTFS. I wish to convert my comp HD to*
>>> *NTFS. Can anyone please advise what is the best way to*
> *do*
>>> *this without losing all my files. I was thinking of*
>>> *using "backup" to copy all my files to the external*
> *drive*
>>> *then formatting my computer HD and reinstalling Windows*
>>> *using NTFS. Then reinstalling backup to my comp HD.*
>>> *Is this feasible? I am not very computer literate so I*
>>> *would appreciate if you could keep it as simple as*
>>> *possible.*
>>>
>>> *Dave*
>>
>>
>>