

Re: dual-boot???

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<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.general/2005-06/msg02993.html>

- *From:* Bruce Chambers <bchambers@xxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Mon, 06 Jun 2005 06:54:56 -0600
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RobLee wrote:

hi all,
my friend is currently running win98 but wants to create a dual-boot system with xp. i have read that you have to format a seperate volume to NTFS to accomodate xp.

While you have to have each OS on it's own partition, the WinXP doesn't have to be NTFS, if security and stability are of no concern to your friend.

my question is how much volume is required and where do you do this?
thank you.

The size of each partition depends entirely upon how many applications and how much data you'll be installing/storing on each.

The simplest way I've found to dual boot between Win9x/Me and WinXP would be to partition your drive(s) roughly as follows:

| | | | |
|----|----------|-------|----------------------|
| C: | Primary | FAT32 | Win9x/Me/Legacy Apps |
| D: | Extended | NTFS | WinXP/Modern Apps |

Adjust the partition sizes according to your actual hard drive(s) size and the amount of space you'd like to allocate to each OS and its applications.

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Create the partitions using Win9x's FDISK so you can enable large disk support (FAT32). (No need for 3rd party partitioning utilities/boot managers and their frequent complications.)

Install Win9x/Me first, being sure to select "C:\Windows" (or D:\Windows, if you prefer) when asked for the default Windows directory. When you subsequently install WinXP, be sure to specify "D:\Winnt" (or "D:\Windows," "C:\Winnt" as referred/applicable) when asked for the default Windows directory, to place it in the other partition. The WinXP installation routine will automatically set up a Multi-boot menu for you. The default settings for this menu can be readily edited from within WinXP. NOTE: If you elect to place Win9x/Me on the "D:" drive, you'll have to leave the "C:" drive as FAT32.

This method can be adapted to using 2 physical hard drives by placing the boot partition (C:, which still must be FAT32) and either of the operating systems on the Primary Master hard drive, and the second operating system on the second hard drive.

It is also possible to have a 3rd partition for shared applications, but it would be necessary for such a partition to be formatted in the common file format (FAT32). The applications would also have to be installed into each OS (to ensure proper system file placement and registry updates), one at a time, but the bulk of the program files could be located on this common partition. I do not, however, actually recommend doing this as, if you were to uninstall such an application from one OS, you may not be able to gracefully uninstall it from the second OS, having already deleted crucial installation data during the first uninstall action.

Just about everything you need to know (URLs may wrap):

<http://support.microsoft.com/support/kb/articles/Q217/2/10.ASP>

<http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/pro/using/howto/gettingstarted/multiboot.asp>

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Bruce Chambers

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<http://www.catb.org/~esr/faqs/smart-questions.html>

You can have peace. Or you can have freedom. Don't ever count on having both at once. - RAH

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