

cloning system hard drive

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 - *Date:* Wed, 21 Dec 2005 11:35:58 -0600
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I know there's a post with various answers with some of these questions answered, but I'm not sure all questions have been answered. And, No, I can't afford a "professional," all they ever seem to do is reformat, reload.

I need to install a larger primary drive but want to keep my WinXP OS and many, many programs with their patches and upgrades intact. In effect, I want to completely clone my present boot drive to another, larger boot drive.

What software is best? Ghost, Aconis, or XXCopy? and what versions? I want the easiest and the best, not necessarily the cheapest.

What process should I use? Can I install the new drive as primary (in place of the present boot drive), format it accordingly (ntfs? can I do that without XP in place?) then use a cloning program to transfer everything from current primary to secondary while keeping or transferring the boot sector? Upon initiation of the new boot drive, will XP require reregistration? (Bear in mind that I will still have my old boot drive available in case of problems.)

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