

Re: reformatting hard drive question

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.general/2006-02/msg06866.html>

- *From:* "decoder" <REMOVE@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Fri, 17 Feb 2006 01:17:10 -0000
-

"Overture1986" <Overture1986@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message news:DB2635AF-54D5-4A22-B110-B584974F3D03@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

ive been having major problems with my computer restarting, its fairly new and shouldnt be acting the way it is and after replacing the mother board and video card im convinced its time to wipe my hard drive and start over but i was wondering.

will i have to reinstall windows when i reformat my c:drive?

i ask this because i cant find the windows cd that my computer came with and i dont want to clear my hard drive if it means i wont be able to use the computer at all.

any help is much appretiated

The WindowsXP disk is the most important element!
As an example, with the problem of restarting PC, you could've booted from your WinXP disk.
"fairly new" and already the Mobo and video card replaced?
If you format, You will most definately have to install Windows and you cannot install anything else until you install windows!

Who replaced the mobo and video card? The OEM? Retailer?
Were they exact model replacements? If not, then it is highly probable that Windows was reinstalled then?

Who was the original supplier of the PC? Was it a "package"?
Many PC's are supplied with Windows preinstalled, and NOT with an original Microsoft WinXP disk, but a licensed preinstalled version to that OEM manufacturer, if so:
You would've been supplied with a "system reset disk", OR...
A partition may have been configured to hold a "mirror set-up".

Re: reformatting hard drive question

To reset your PC to either of these types of XP installation:
Your PC's hardware configuration must be as purchased as the "reset" will try and configure as it was when the "mirror-image" was compiled. If you are sure the mobo and graphics are identical to the original set up, and you haven't made any other hardware changes:

If you have a "reset" disk, place in dvd tray, restart PC.
Your PC will now boot from the "reset" disk, follow the onscreen prompts and your PC will be "reset".

If No "reset" disk:
Double-click "My Computer",
Listed will be your hardware configuration.
If a partition is configured with the "mirror-image" it will usually be a separate sector of C drive and will be given the Letter "D".
If so, RIGHT click on it, and in the sub menu, select "open"
This will now detail all the files and folders in that partition.
there will always be a "read me" file – Read it!
To reset, there will be a specific icon which will have an obvious title such as: "System reset"/"Original set up" etc
Double click it, your system will be reset and XP reinstalled.

If it was indeed an OEM preinstalled licensed version of XP but you do not have a "reset" disk, nor a "reset partition", all is not lost, many OEM's allow a download of an "reset image" from their support sites (HP, Advent and many others do.) But.....

If you have a Compaq, or a UK product from Time or Tiny these OEM's are now defunct.

But.....

If you are absolutely confident your PC is configured as originally purchased, and it was an OEM preinstalled version of XP, then they would've installed that licensed version in all specific models. IE: If your PC is model BunionPC zx2121, all you need to do is find online another owner of exactly the same model, and kindly request a DVD copy of their reset disk.

The Proviso:

Your PC's hardware must be EXACTLY as the Mirror-image on reset disk or partition, if not then it won't work!
The replaced mobo and video card cause doubts.....
They have to be exact same replacements as originals.

But, If your WinXP installation was from an Original Microsoft winXP installation disk, your only option is to find that original XP disk, or buy a new one!

Re: reformatting hard drive question