

# Re: External Hard Drive

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- *From:* "Anna" <[myname@xxxxxxxxxx](mailto:myname@xxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Thu, 23 Mar 2006 14:27:01 -0500
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Sam wrote:

I bought an 250 GB Iomega external hard drive last month and cloned my little 30 GB system using Acronis True Image. It took about two hours to clone.

Uncle Grumpy wrote:

What a WASTE of such a large drive.

You'd be better off to partition that external drive, and to use Acronis True Image to make an image of your current drive in one of the partitions.

In my own case, my main drive is an 80GB, I have a second internal of 30GB, and a 120GB external.

I clone the main drive weekly to the second internal drive, and use the external drive for images, and other things (five partitions).

"Sam" <[samsarak@xxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:samsarak@xxxxxxxxxxxx)> wrote in message [news:OMGSYgqTGHA.4132@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:OMGSYgqTGHA.4132@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

It was on sale.

I don't understand why you say I'm wasting it. I intend to keep on

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filling it up. What I want to do is save all the images and documents for my children to have 20 years from now.

I'm trying to figure out what partitioning really does. Seems like a partition is just like a large file. If my hard drive fails, all the partitions fail, correct?

True Image made two partitions even though I didn't ask it to. It made an exact copy of my computer. You suggest partitioning my external drive. What should I do with the extra partitions?

Another question I have is, when you clone each week, do you erase the previous clone first?

Thanks for replying.

Sam:

First of all, it's fine to use your USB external HD as a storage device, including cloning the contents of your internal HD to that USBEHD for backup purposes. Understand that when you use a disk imaging program such as Acronis True Image to perform the cloning operation whatever prior contents were on the USBEHD will be replaced by the new clone. This is an automatic process – you need not "erase" the previous cloned contents on that drive.

With the relative costs of large-capacity HDs so low these days, there's certainly no major negative in having a 250 GB HD as your external HD. I suppose it's reasonable to assume that by & by you'll be replacing your 30 GB internal HD with a considerably larger one, so the now-extra capacity of your external drive will certainly come in handy at some future date.

Now as to the clone you created...

Why it took two hours to perform the cloning operation I don't know. You didn't indicate the volume of data on your source disk, but assuming you were cloning, for example, 20 GB of data, it shouldn't have taken you more than an hour, if that. (I'm assuming your computer has USB 2.0 capability as I'm certain your USB device has). With a "modern" machine, i.e., processor & HDs, cloning speed in this instance should be about 400 to 450 MB/min.

A clone is a clone is a clone. When you make a direct disk-to-disk clone as you apparently did, whatever partitions that are on your source disk will be cloned to the destination disk. So if your USBEHD has two partitions following the cloning operation, then your internal (source) drive contains two partitions. Is it possible that your computer is an OEM machine and contains a so-called "recovery" partition placed there by the manufacturer?

There is really no need to manually partition your USBEHD if your basic objective is to use that device solely as a simple recipient of the cloned contents of your internal (source) HD. If, however, for one reason or

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another you determine that another partition would be useful on that external drive for some sort of ancillary storage capability, then you are free to create that partition. But there's a problem in doing so with the ATI program (at least with the version 8 program – I don't know if there's any difference with the newer version 9 edition). Based on my experience with that program, ATI will not allow partition-to-partition cloning, at least with respect to \*direct\* disk-to-disk cloning operations. It's an "all or nothing" proposition in the sense that when you clone the contents of your internal HD to your USBEHD, whatever partitions that were previously created on the external drive will be deleted as I mentioned above. There are some disk imaging programs that have the capability to clone on a partition-to-partition basis but to the best of my knowledge the ATI program does not provide this capability.

As to your question "If my hard drive fails, all the partitions fail, correct?", you bet they do.

You're most certainly on the right track in terms of using a disk imaging program to clone the contents of your internal working HD as a systematic and effective backup tool.

Retry the cloning process and see if it you're still experiencing problems with the untoward amount of time it's taking to complete the process. If you're still having problems let us know, and provide details about your computer, operating system, how you're undertaking the process, etc. and we'll see if we can help you.

Anna

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