

# Re: Partitioning new harddrives

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- *From:* D.B. <[DB@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:DB@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Fri, 9 Jun 2006 08:11:01 -0700
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Thanks Johnny.

I have printed out your recommendations for further review.

I believe when I put the second harddrive in, about 3 or 4 years ago, that I assured both were set up as "cable select" and as a matter of fact are both Western Digital drives.

As far as the page file on a seperate drive goes, I experimented a few years ago while trying to learn various tweaks and in fact did put the swap file on the other disk, but as you point out, I don't have a SCSI set up and therefore noticed no apparent speed or performance increase. I tried several tweaks like disabling the executive paging and the like but ultimately put things back as they were because, once again, noticed no performance increase. The best thing I ever did was replace the stock 128 Mb of ram with two 512 sticks. What a difference !

I guess you can only do so much with a 1.7 Ghz. processor and can only upgrade to a 2.8 and thats still with only 500 FSB.(Mother board wont accept 800 mhz.fsb).

Perhaps, if we eventually get a new box I'll keep this one to experiment more. I'll put the bigger/faster processor in and upgrade the video to the largest I can get,(256 mb. but still only agp 4 as thats all I can take). Oh well, only way to learn is by doing.

Thanks again for your response.

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As always thanks for any and all responses.

"Jonny" wrote:

1. Master/slave configuration is fine.
2. Your PC doesn't meet a requirement for moving the swapfile to another hard drive. The alternate hard drive is not any faster. You have no just as fast or faster alternate bus system like scsi to operate such hard drive.
3. If the alternate hard drive is adequate for your purposes, the boot drive should be partitioned entirely as one partition. Barring any factory PC non-OS partitions of course for those reading and having this.

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4. If you ever have to access the second hard drive in a non-XP environment, FAT32 is best. If never anticipated, go with NTFS (type 3 used by XP).

Assuming you have the room, I would image your current C: drive to F: or G: as an image file(s). Using an imaging program that works in the XP environment for ease of use. Remove the old C: hard drive. Swap in the new master, assure the bios "sees" it. Boot off the imaging program's boot CD and restore it to the new drive. Enlarge this partition at your own risk, should be an option during the user restore option process. Or just clean install XP if the Dell CD allows such.

Temporarily disconnect the DVDs. Leave the old drive slave. Make the alternate new hard drive as master. Connect to the secondary ide connector. Make NTFS or FAT32 partitions, you'll lose a little space with FAT32 while in XP if made with XP. Copy the data from F: and G: to corresponding partitions on the new alternate hard drive. Turn off the PC, and remove the old hard drive and the new alternate hard drive. Place both DVD burners in the original locations on the secondary ide's ribbon cable. Turn on PC, and assure they have the same drive lettering. Turn off the PC. Attach the new alternate hard drive as slave on the primary ide cable. If the drive letters have changed after booting XP, configure them to the original designations.

Western Digital hard drives have two master jumper configurations. 1. Master alone 2. Master with slave. Be sure the master is always jumpered correctly.

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Jonny

"D.B." <DB@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message  
[news:54A23D41-CA27-4D23-87D9-3C53796E0C8F@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:54A23D41-CA27-4D23-87D9-3C53796E0C8F@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

Four weeks ago, my computer went stupid on me.  
My daughter was playing her educational game and it started rebooting. I did  
all of the requisite spyware/adware,virus scans ad-nauseum. Finally, I did a  
repair install of XP and I thought it solved the problem but noticed other  
strange goings on such as all of my drive letters have changed and I started  
getting disk errors.  
I ran chkdsk and it found some problems on my H drive.  
( c drive is my original 20 GB system drive, D drive is one of my DVD  
burners , E drive is the other DVD burner. F,G and H are three  
seperate,equal  
partitions on a 120 GB harddrive).  
Dskchk locked up at 54% of phase 5 on H drive requiring a hard shutdown. I  
left it run for hours with no change.  
I have since bought 2 new 100 Gb hard drives and want to replace both the  
20  
and 120 Gb drives with these.

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I have read just about everything I could find on the most efficient partitioning scheme's and discovered there is no clear concensus.

I want to do this right the first time so:

1) Do I place one of the new drives as master on the primary ide cable and the second as slave (That's my current configuration).. or should I put one harddrive as master and one burner as slave on the primary and again the same setup on the secondary ide channel?

I have seen arguments for both.

2) Should I leave the page file on C or make a 4 GB,Fat 32 partition on the second harddrive as the page file ?

Once again I have found varying oppinions.

3) I'm not sure but I dont know if it's a good idea to leave the C drive at a 100 GB's but I'm not sure of the best overall partitioning sizes.

4) I'm thinking of making seperate partitions on the second harddrive for pictures/downloads/video's/data/music but once again don't know the best sollution.

I'm going to try and transfer old C to new C with the new drives included software. If it don't work I'll just wipe and reinstall everything but on a

dial up network I really don't want to do this.

The computer is running XP home with 2 accounts, mine and my wifes. We use

it mainly for home schooling our 5 year old daughter and E-mail. I use it mainly for trying to teach myself about computers and have basically rebuilt

it from the ground up except for the processor. We do a little bit with pictures and making videos. It is a 5 year old Dimmension 4400, 1.7 Ghz. P/4,

ATI Radeon 7000 64 Mb video card, sound blaster audigy MP3+ card, 1GB of ram,

I have added usb 2, midi and firewire ports. At present, we can't afford a new machine and this one is more than adequate for our needs.....except for

the dial up network.

Thank you for any and all responses.

D.B.

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As always thanks for any and all responses.