

Re: Booting to D

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.general/2006-06/msg05461.html>

- *From:* "Timothy Daniels" <TDaniels@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Fri, 16 Jun 2006 13:02:34 -0700
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You don't say which HD and which partition contains that boot.ini. Remember that one partition on each HD contains a clone, and they should both contain the boot files of the original. I suspect that both partitions contain boot files, and it is the HD boot order that determines which set of boot files are used.

The **default** HD boot order for SATA HDs is
SATA ch. 0,
SATA ch. 1.

If you haven't inadvertently (or advertently) changed the HD boot order in the BIOS, your HD which you call "D:" is the at the head of the HD boot order, and it can be called the "boot drive". Since you have only one partition on each HD which are also marked "active"), those partitions can each be called a "boot partition".

Assuming that the boot.ini files of both partition's are identical, all you have to do to make them **both** dual-boot menus, is to add another entry with the "rdisk(0)" changed to "rdisk(1)", the timeout value set to something around 5 to 10, and the default entry's "rdisk()" set to "rdisk(0)".

That will give the meaning "this disk" to the "rdisk(0)" entry and "the other disk" to the "rdisk(1)" entry, and "this disk" to the default entry. In this context, "this" means the HD at the head of the HD boot order, i.e. the HD on SATA channel 0.

If, for some reason, you want to use the boot files on the channel 1 SATA HD, just go into the BIOS – usually by pressing the Delete key on Dell machines when the machine goes beep or makes a grinding sound during the initial booting procedure – and navigate to the section that sets the **HD** boot order (not just the device boot order). See your owner's manual for details on the BIOS. That will allow you to control

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booting from your 2nd HD in case the 1st HD gets flakey.

TimDaniels

"Bill" wrote:

Timothy,

This is the line under "operating systems" in boot.ini

```
multi(0)disk(0)rdisk(0)partition(2)Windows =  
"Microsoft Windows XP Home edition"/noexecute option/fastdetect
```

It doesn't seem to have the second rdisk option you mentioned – so I guess it is not already set up for multi booting.

Bill

"Timothy Daniels" <TDaniels@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message news:P-udnU6tX9HqQA_ZnZ2dnUVZ_r2dnZ2d@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx

The phrase "boot to C" doesn't mean anything to me. The boot files can be on *any* Primary partition on *any* HD in the system. The OS that ntlldr (i.e. the boot loader) loads can be on *any* partition – even on a Logical Drive within an Extended partition. This all means that the "C:" partition doesn't have to be the location of the boot files, and "C:" doesn't have to contain the OS that is loaded. As a matter of fact, the running OS can rename all the partitions while it is running.

If you created one WinXP by cloning another, and the original OS called its own partition "C:", the clone OS will also call its own partition "C:" when it is running. It usually, in that case, will call the original OS's partition "D:". And the original OS, when it is running, will call the clone's partition "D:". This is not a problem unless the running OS has a shortcut to "D:" which gets broken if you add another partition and what was expected to be on "D:" partition is on a partition that is then called "E:". If all file references stay within the OS's partition, this does not become a problem.

Since you have a Dell, you probably have a Phoenix BIOS, and it probably has the ability to re-define the HD boot order (i.e. re-arrange the list of HDs which determines which one the BIOS searches first when

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it looks for a HD with a valid MBR (Master Boot Record). When such an MBR is found, the BIOS then passes control to that MBR, and the MBR's executable logic then looks in the partition table on the HD for the Primary partition that has its "active" flag set. The MBR then passes control to the boot sector in that partition, and the boot sector passes control to the ntldr in its partition. So, by controlling the HD boot order, you can control which MBR the BIOS passes control to, and that ultimately can control which OS gets booted. IOW, you don't even need a boot manager to do multi-booting if the OSes are on separate HDs.

But if you do want to use the standard WinXP boot manager, all you need to do is to set the "rdisk()" parameter in the boot.ini entries. Assuming that the boot.ini file is already set up to do multi-booting, it now has 2 entries under the line "[operating systems]". One has "rdisk(0)" in it, the other has "rdisk(1)" in it. "rdisk(0)" refers to the HD which is currently at the head of the HD boot order (i.e. at relative position 0). "rdisk(1)" refers to the 2nd HD in the HD boot order (i.e. relative position 1). You can put whatever you want between the double quotes in the line, and it is that character string which you see in the menu at boot time which will identify for you which entry in boot.ini you may select. You can also control the length of time the menu is displayed by setting the no. of seconds as the value of "timeout" in the boot.ini contents.

These boot files may be on what you call the C: partition or on what you call the D: partition – it doesn't matter. The ones that get chosen for running are determined by the the HD boot order and the "active" flag on the HD that is at the head of the HD boot order. The boot.ini entry selection then controls where the loader goes looking for the OS.

"Bill" wrote:

What is the "problem" to which you refer when you write "I believe the problem started..."? Is it booting with the "D:" partition?
YES – I ALWAYS THOUGHT IT HAD TO BOOT TO C

Is it having a shortcut with "D:" as the root?
YES – IF IN FACT IT IS A PROBLEM

BTW, who is the motherboard

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manufacturer, or if you know, who wrote the BIOS?
IT IS A DELL PENTIUM 4 XPS GEN 5

Are the installed programs on the 2 OSes
significantly different (i.e. why 2 OSes?)
C AND D ARE TWO SEPARATE HARD DRIVES
ORIGINALLY I USED D AS A CLONE OF C FOR BACKUP
NOW THEY ARE REVERSED
ALL WORKS FINE –

THANKS FOR THE REPLY

I MAY BE THE PROBLEM HERE

TimDaniels

"Bill" wrote:

OS = Windows XP Home SP2

I have 2 hds – C and D

In setup:

D = Drive 0 – SATA 0

C = Drive 1 – SATA 1

Control Panel – System – Device Manager shows the same
thing

If I right click on a icon on the quick launch bar it shoes D as
the
location of the program. All seems to be working fine, but I
am not sure
booting to D is OK. I want to add a 3rd HD and put
Windows Vista Beta 2 on
it and use VistaBootPro to choose between systems. I
thought it might be a
good idea to get the C/D thing corrected before I add more
drives.

I believe the problem started when I booted the machine with
the cable to
C
disconnected, not on purpose. I have tried switching the
cables at the
motherboard and can boot to the welcome screen but it
doesn't say "windows
is starting" and goes no further.

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Any ideas appreciated.

I have already yelled at myself and taken away my eating
veggies
privileges
for a month<G>

Bill