

Re: Partition new HDD for XP Pro install?

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- *From:* "Gman" <mbient@xxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* 4 Jul 2006 17:15:37 -0700
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Thanks for your input Patrick, yeah, I tried to get Lenovo to upgrade either the size or speed of the replacement HDD (to make up for the tech's screwing up and not placing the order with Parts, 3 weeks ago), but they resisted, so, being as it's 'free', I'll stick with the 40 gigs at 4500rpm.

My thoughts on creating the seperate partition for the page file was to give it adequate space and then the isolation would keep it from getting spread all over the HDD, which might speed up the paging process. I assume it would still get fragmented and would benefit from period defragging, if that's possible. I recall having to assign it to a different drive in 98 to get that task done.

I also recall having the single HDD in a 98 machine partitioned to C: and D:, with the OS only on the C: drive, and that made reinstalling 98, after a bad case of something, a whole lot easier.

I understand XP is a whole different animal from 98. That's why I asked. Thanks again.

Patrick Keenan wrote:

"Gman" <mbient@xxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
news:1152044974.030717.189960@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

OK, I'm going to bite the bullet and finally install XP, once the new HDD gets here (it's been 3 weeks coming – Lenovo is not IBM), but with all this Think time, I have several more questions.

This is a Thinkpad, the warranty replacement HDD is 40 GB (couldn't talk them in to a bigger one), but I did buy a 160 GB External HDD (USB 2.0) which I intend to use to supplement the internal HDD to store the system backups, app data and media files.

My questions:

What is the consensus regarding partitioning the internal HDD with a C:

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partition for XP, a separate D: partition for the paging file (I think that's what it's called), and the remainder would be an E: partition for frequently used applications, like Quicken, Office and some photo / video utilities? (I am not an exotic user.)

If partitioning is recommended, what is the optimum size for the C: and D: partitions? Since I will be using a CD set supplied by Lenovo to install XP and all the original apps, I may not have any choices prior to installation, but am hopeful I can go back and set things up a little more efficiently than it was out of the box, just one big C: partition.

Should I also consider partitioning the external HDD? If so, why and what sizes?

I have read the websites suggested in other posts, but did not get the specific answers I was looking for. Any other suggestions regarding my setup would be appreciated.

Thanks.

I'm using a Thinkpad (R31) with a 40 gig drive. I made one partition, and it works well. My desktop has a pair of 250 gig drives, each with one partition. That works equally well. Its external drives are single partitions. I sometimes need to create and store large files and folder structures, and sub-partitions would cause me problems.

I'm not sure that you would find any real benefits from multiple partitions. In fact you may find the opposite on a drive that size, as you'll then have three limited spaces to keep track of instead of one, and three partitions to clean up and defragment.

If you choose to create multiple partitions, make sure that you allow space on the Windows partition for all possible updates. You'll have to keep an eye on that partition as there will be temporary files created there; some apps just don't pay attention to where you may or may not direct the temp variable.

And, move the temporary files for any browsers to another partition – speaking of which, reduce IE's cache size. I just reinstalled XP on a test system (a P3/500, 40 gig drive) and IE claimed 1.2 gig for cache.

You might be thinking that the multiple partitions gives you some data security. This often isn't the case, as if the drive fails, you lose access to all partitions equally.

I replaced my thinkpad's original 20 gig drive with the current 40 gig, but I chose a 7200rpm drive (the original was 4500). The speed difference is noticeable – though it may partly be because this drive is not failing. It was a bit more expensive, but easily worth it.

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HTH
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