

Re: Creating a backup restore CD not floppy

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<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.general/2006-07/msg05260.html>

- *From:* "Anna" <myname@xxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Sun, 16 Jul 2006 16:49:15 -0400
-

"Anna" wrote:

"Tania"

<Tania@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

wrote in message

news:A1723D5F-A241-4356-B241-88B866630D67@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

I have repair and restore disks which came with my out of date computer quite a long time ago. I updated to SP2 online, the OEM disks if used for repair or recovery revert OS to SP1, which as of October this year will not be supported. Once this happens now that Genuine Advantage Notifacations which is installed and remains if a repair and not a recovery is done no longer has the tools needed to verify software causing a Notification and

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blockage
from Updates to SP2 and a
whole mess of other
problems. The only
thing
that
can be done is a restore to
factory specs whereafter
there are
endless
hours
of configuring, downloading
and uploading, installations,
setup,
etc.
As of
October of this year I
believe if I ever do a repair
or recovery
with
the
Oem disks I will be stuck
with unsupported SP1. I
would like to
avoid
this as
well as the work described
above by creating my own
restore disk on
CD-Rom. I know there is a
utility for restore disks in
NT but as far
as
I know it
requires bootable floppies
and this laptop has
CD/DVD only. I can
do
regular backup on a CD-R I
believe of personal files and
settings.
I
would like
advice as to whether I can
create a bootable CD and
use it to create
a
restore solution in the future
if I have a system failure
which
causes

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my
current OS not to boot fully
which has happened to me
once again.
I'm
not
an advanced user but am
familiar with XP interface. I
do not know
if
what I
want to do is possible, but if
anyone does know how or
can provide
advice
or a place to start I would be
truly grateful.

"Roberto" wrote:

A third party program such as Norton Ghost
or BootITNG will do
what
you want, Norton is the easiest IMHO, it
will allow you to
create
an
image of your current HDD and write it to
bootable DVDs [providing
your
writer is supported by Ghost].
I believe they have a list of supported optical
drives on the
Symantec web site.

rgds
Roberto

"Tania" <Tania@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
news:71FE1D20-0395-43BC-8094-B7AE2277B47E@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Thank you Roberto I'll see if I can do this.

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Tania:

Let me add a bit to Roberto's suggestions...

His basic advice to use a disk imaging program is a good one. But rather than using such a program (and I'll discuss other programs/versions if you or others are interested in my suggested approach) to create disk images on DVD media, consider using that type of program to directly "clone" the contents of your working HD to another HD, preferably a USB (or Firewire) external HD.

Before I get into some of the details of this process, I'm assuming that your PC has USB 2.0 (not just USB 1.0 or 1.1) support. I see you've referred to your computer as "out of date" so that may mean that you don't have USB 2.0 support. On the other hand you've mentioned that your computer is equipped with a DVD optical drive so that leads me to believe you probably do have USB 2.0 capability. I'll discuss this USB 1.1/2.0 business shortly.

So let's assume for the moment that you have USB 2.0 capability. The advantage of directly cloning the contents of your working HD to a external HD is that it's a bit less complicated and somewhat more straightforward than creating disk images on DVDs. By creating this "clone" the HD recipient (the "destination" drive) becomes, in effect, a bit-for-bit copy of your "source" HD. Should, at a later time, your working HD become dysfunctional, it's a relatively simple matter to "re:clone" the contents of the external HD back to the internal HD for restoration purposes. And should the internal HD become defective and unusable, you can use the cloned HD contained in its USB enclosure and install it in your computer to replace the failed HD.

Now of course there will be an additional expense re this process and I don't know if that would negate any interest on your part in this approach.

So let me cover that first.

You would need to purchase a USB external HD enclosure + a HD to install in the enclosure the latter, of course, acting as recipient of the clone. While you can purchase an integrated unit, I would recommend purchasing instead a

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separate enclosure and HD, the advantage being that the HD is obviously removable and could be used to install as an internal HD in your computer should that need later arise. The integrated units ordinarily do not have this capability. I should mention that the installation of the HD in its USB

external enclosure is generally a very simple process – just a couple of internal connections – not difficult at all.

(Now the reason I asked above as to whether your computer had USB 2.0 capability is that if it does not – I would not recommend this approach as it now stands. With USB 1.1 the data transfer rate from one HD to another HD would be so abysmally slow that, in my view, this approach would not be feasible. Now (assuming you have only USB 1.1 capability) there is a way to get around this – you could purchase a USB 2.0 PCI card and install it in your machine. But of course, that's an additional expense.)

In any event, USB enclosures can be purchased from online vendors for as little as \$40 or so. The cost of the HD would, of course, depend on its capacity. And, of course, you would need to purchase a disk imaging program.

Using this approach you can maintain a systematic routine backup of your entire system and accomplish this in a relatively simple & direct manner. On the other hand you may feel more comfortable with using DVDs to store disk images of your system. I suppose it's just a matter of personal preference.

I can go on about my recommendations in this area – they're slightly different (or at least amplify) from Roberto's suggestions, but since I'm unsure whether this alternate approach is of any interest to you I won't comment any further. But if you (or any other interested party) is so interested, please so indicate and I'll go on.

Anna

"Tania" <Tania@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
news:AF692715-B4B1-4E60-9837-02DB21C3966F@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Anna,

Thank you for your response and it is tempting to look into further. I have cancer and lupus and am extremely disabled and haven't worked in years. I mention this because although your solution seems the simplest if I were to ever experience the blue screen of death again, I do worry about cost, and

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lack confidence being out of any professional environment for so long.

Also,

I would have to ask a shopper who has never used a computer to purchase the

additional hardware. I would feel the most comfortable having a bootable CD-R (several if necessary for capacity) to restore my computer if needed and if possible. I do have a USB 4port micro hub and was once advised to look into flash storage devices which run only about \$14. I welcome and will

consider any and all further advice with thanks.

Tania:

Well, under those circumstances perhaps the approach I recommended wouldn't be practical at this time. But do file away my comments for perusal at a later date. Perhaps it may be feasible at some future time.

Anna