

Data loss: problem with copying files from Win98 to XP (FAT32) and vice-versa

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I have a HD which was originally fdisk-ed to 3 FAT32 partitions via Win98 boot diskette. I left some 20 GB unpartitioned. After some time I've "discovered" unused 20 GB on that disk so I've formatted it (4th partition) in WinXP (FAT32). But there was a problem: in Win98 I couldn't see the files that I copied on that disk in WinXP. So, in WinXP I made a backup of all files on the disk, switched to Win98 and formatted it Win98 to FAT32. I've chosen "Full format" but formatting was very fast, ie. much faster than if I should have formatted it in DOS prompt. Immediately after that I have MOVED data to that disk from one of the backed-up folders. Luckily, I moved only one folder. Why "luckily"? Because then I closed Win98 and started up WinXP I couldn't see any folder (file) on the disk from XP. So I closed WinXP and started up Win98 again. But, what the hell (!!!): my data (one folder) has disappeared!!! Instead of data I can see something what we (in Czech Republic) call "Chinese tea", see http://img104.imagevenue.com/img.php?image=54919_W98_1_122_366lo.jpg. The size of occupied space is OK (677 MB) – it was the size of all data in the folder that I moved on that disk in previous Win98 session, see http://img21.imagevenue.com/img.php?image=55040_W98_2_122_342lo.jpg. This is information about the disk as shown in Win98's FDISK: http://img13.imagevenue.com/img.php?image=55810_W98_3_122_319lo.jpg http://img163.imagevenue.com/img.php?image=55875_W98_4_122_570lo.jpg

Same info about same logical disk in Win XP: http://img42.imagevenue.com/img.php?image=56314_WXP_1_122_572lo.jpg http://img167.imagevenue.com/img.php?image=56393_WXP_2_122_573lo.jpg http://img111.imagevenue.com/img.php?image=56624_WXP_3_122_502lo.jpg

The Found.000 folder was created when I ran Win XP in safe mode. Before I read all information about cross-cluster problem (plus more blah-blahs on the screen) XP have created the "backup" folder (Found.000). Of course, it's unusable AT ALL – I simply can't imagine myself joining hundreds of small files using hexadecimal editor. I'll delete Found.000 later, for sure.

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Note: WinXP is installed on NTFS disk that's why disk mapping differs from

Win98:

98 = L:

XP = P:

The questions are:

- 1) Why this happens?
- 2) How can I rescue the 677 MB in lost folder?

Additional note:

- 1) I have Promise Ultra TX 100 in my computer. After that accident I tried to download a newer driver from Western Digital. But WinXP refused to install the driver saying that the current one (by Microsoft) is better than the one I'm trying to install.
- 2) In WinXP I can't use Standby Mode on my computer. Neither I can hibernate the system. The problem is that some disks simply don't switch on restart – of course, it may cause DATA LOSS (!!!) as it once did, GRRRRRRRRRRRR... :-(
- 3) Accoustically, the swith off to Standby Mode (or hibernate) is different from when I totally shut down WinXP.

I have tried to discuss the problem with Microsoft CZ tech support but they know NOTHING about such problem. They recommended me not to open disks with different file systems (NTFS & FAT32) in one session... :-(... Not a good advice, what do you mean?

IMHO, there must be some problem in WinXP Promise Ultra driver. The problem that causes data loss... :-(

Or, hmmm, am I doing something wrong?

TYVM in advance.

Vlado

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