

# Re: Lost data on 320GB hard disk and corrupted data on 250gb hard

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*Source:*

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.general/2007-01/msg05328.html>

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- *From:* "Anna" <[myname@xxxxxxxxxx](mailto:myname@xxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Mon, 15 Jan 2007 00:01:01 -0500
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IJVelas wrote:

My computer setup before reinstalling a fresh copy of Windows XP is  
P4 2.8 Ghz on a Intel PERL Motherboard, 1GB RAM,  
128MB Video,  
Partitioned PATA 80GB Seagate (C: 40GB, D: 40GB) hard disk, SATA  
250GB hard disk (E:), SATA 320GB hard disk (F:). Installed is  
Windows XP SP2 with the latest updates by Microsoft. This setup is  
already a year old so I've decided to reinstall a fresh copy of Windows XP. After successfully installing a new Windows XP SP2, I  
couldn't access my 320GB hard disk and everytime I boot up my  
Windows XP scandisk always run. I always cancel the scandisk  
because I'm afraid that I might loose my valuable data if scandisk  
corrects the problems found by scandisk.

Windows XP tells me that my 320GB hard disk is not formatted. I  
opened Computer Management to see the list of drives and found out  
that my 320GB hard disk is only detected as 130GB hard disk but in  
the BIOS it says 320GB hard disk. After doing some research on the  
net, I found out that Windows XP doesn't automatically support  
large hard drives greater than 130GB (I think). I edited the registry and added DWORD EnableLargeLba = 1 then

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rebooted my PC.  
After the reboot, Windows XP still reports that my 250GB hard disk has problems. Opened Computer Management again and checked my hard drives. Computer Management now reports that my 320GB hard disk has 130GB (healthy) and 170GB (unallocated).

I also lost some data and corrupted files on my 250GB hard disk.

I think the cause of this was Windows XP automatically reconfigured the partitions on my hard drive since it doesn't support large hard disks greater than 130GB.

Is it still possible to recover all my data on my 320gb hard disk and 250gb hard disk drives? What should I do? I am sure that my hard drives are working in good condition because I just bought them a few months ago.

"Shenan Stanley" wrote:

Windows XP SP1 and later 'automatically' (out-of-the-box) supports drives larger than 137GB.

Your results from your research was incorrect or at least incomplete.

As long as you installed Windows XP SP1 or SP2 initially (not updated it to SP2) – the support was there from the beginning.

You may be having trouble with the drivers for the controller? Update those from the controller card or motherboard manufacturer? (If built into the motherboard – the chipset drivers should cover that.)

No one should have suspected a hard disk issue from the information you gave...

When you installed Windows XP – was it from a CD integrated with SP1 or SP2?

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Shenan Stanley

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MS-MVP

"IJVelas" <IJVelas@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message  
[news:DF88A5F7-91F6-4A52-888E-D6DA27979147@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:DF88A5F7-91F6-4A52-888E-D6DA27979147@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

<http://support.microsoft.com/kb/303013>

Thanks for correcting me, I reviewed the article again. But why is it that my hard disks is not recognized correctly by Windows XP? What I did was, I installed a Windows XP (not SP1 and SP2) and reinstalled Windows XP SP2.

IJVelas:

It would appear that when you originally installed XP (sans SP1 and/or SP2) the 137 GB disk capacity limitation was invoked, i.e., both your 250 & 320 GB HDDs would have been affected. So the system would not recognize disk space > 137 GB (approx.) under those circumstances. Presumably while you were using those two HDDs during the time SP1 and/or SP2 was \*not\* installed you could not have utilized any disk space > 137 GB (approx) so I don't understand how you could create any data on that space – data that you infer has been lost. Are you certain about this? Are you perhaps referring to data on the 137 GB partition? And (in this connection) you mention only the 320 GB HDD as being affected by lost data. Not the 250 GB one although you do indicate there is a problem with lost files & corrupted data re that HDD but it's not clear whether you're referring to the problem involving disk capacity recognition here.

Now when you fresh installed XP w/SP2 to your 80 GB HDD (it \*was\* to that HDD, right?), the system would now recognize the full capacity of your 250 GB & 320 GB HDDs, however the additional disk space > 137 GB (approx) would have been designated as "unallocated" – disk space that you could partition/format on both the 250 GB & 320 GB HDDs. Again, I'm assuming the 250 GB HDD was similarly affected as the 320 GB, presuming that the 250 GB HDD had been installed when you originally installed the XP OS without SP1 or SP2.

The problems you mention re scannow and that "Windows XP tells me that my 320GB hard disk is not formatted" indicate that something is amiss with your system – probably having something to do with your fresh install of XP or something else. Assuming this is practical I wonder if at this point it would be advisable to undertake a new fresh install of XP – making sure that \*all\* other HDDs and storage devices are disconnected from the system during this fresh install (presumably to your 80 GB HDD – I take it for one reason or another you prefer the OS to reside on that HDD rather than on one of your large-capacity HDDs. I don't know why – it wouldn't ordinarily be my choice but I take it you have your reasons). I'm assuming you would have no difficulty re:installing your programs & applications following the fresh install.

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Or in lieu of a new fresh install of the OS you could perform a Repair install on that boot drive. Again, ensure that all HDDs & storage devices are disconnected from the system during that operation.

I'm not sure whether you'll be able to restore any lost data from your two SATA HDDs after this. There may be other problems affecting this situation.  
Anna