

Re: Making backups by just copying files

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.general/2007-05/msg04430.html>

- *From:* John Hensley
 - *Date:* Wed, 16 May 2007 15:04:15 -0400
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On Wed, 16 May 2007 11:28:00 -0500, Bob I <birelan@xxxxxxxx> wrote:

BillW50 wrote:

"Bob I" <birelan@xxxxxxxx> wrote in message
news:OaLFB67IHHA.1820@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

The USB drive won't be bootable as a Windows XP drive.
What you want
to do sounds like it won't work as you currently envision.
You could
clear the data, make the image and then restore the data from
the
backup to get a smaller image.

Why do you say it won't be bootable under XP, Bob I? As I have a 320GB
HD that was bootable in a desktop and I placed it in an external USB HD
case. It has Windows XP installed on it and I hooked up my laptop to the
external HD. And my Gateway MX6124 laptop tries to boot from it. But it
fails, because it was a XP installed from another machine.

I did copy those 3 folders from my laptop (Windows, Program Files, and
Documents and Settings, and the boot files), but I didn't figure the
boot.ini quite right I don't think. Which number do you change first for
disk 1 vs. disk 0? This machine is a Home version which has no bootcfg,
but I do have access to a Pro version if that helps.

```
[boot loader]
timeout=30
default=multi(0)disk(1)rdisk(0)partition(1)\WINDOWS
[operating systems]
multi(0)disk(1)rdisk(0)partition(1)\WINDOWS="External Windows XP
Home
```

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```
Edition" /fastdetect /NoExecute=OptOut  
multi(0)disk(0)rdisk(0)partition(1)\WINDOWS="Microsoft Windows XP  
Home  
Edition" /fastdetect /NoExecute=OptOut
```

But you might be right, it just might be too much work to make it work.
Maybe I'll just backup the OS with ntbacup and hope for the best. LOL

Have you actually successfully booted that drive as an External from ANY
PC? Windows wasn't configured to work that way, altho there are some
places that have "hacked" it into working.

To get copy of Windows XP or 2K booting and running from an external
USB hard drive one only needs to change the start value in service
keys of the drivers that make up the USB stack. The OS will then boot
and run from the drive but Windows will crash with a disk read or
write error if anything is dynamically plugged into the same USB hub
after booting is complete.

To get Windows to run un-interrupted on the USB drive requires adding
a custom driver to the USB stack that prevents new devices from being
recognized after the initial boot. This prevents the USB stack from
being torn down and rebuilt.

I gave a demo of XP running on a USB drive to many of the hard drive
manufacturers at Comdex way back in 2002. At that time there were
only a few hundred thousand USB drives being sold annually and the
drive manufacturers were only willing to pay a few pennies for each
piece of bundled software. Even though the drive manufacturers thought
it was way cool it didn't make sense to continue pursuing the product.

Windows running from a user create RescueBoot CD uses a very similar
process for getting a subset of files from an existing installation of
XP or 2K to boot and run from the CD. In the future I'm hoping to
update RescueBoot to automatically create a bootable Windows XP or 2K
USB drive key in addition to the bootable CD.

John Hensley
www.resqware.com