

## Re: 2 drives needed to boot – how to fix

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- *From:* John66 <[John66@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:John66@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Fri, 15 Jun 2007 13:36:00 -0700
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Anna,

Thank you for your additional suggestions. After getting my system to boot off one drive I will try the True Image program you suggested.

When I need a challenge I will pursue setting up my partitions etc. in the way you suggested. I just dread the thought of having to reload all my software etc. But, as you said I'm probably asking for problems if I don't do it.

Thanks again,  
John

"Anna" wrote:

"John66" <[John66@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:John66@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)> wrote  
in message  
[news:575E0461-15FD-448A-8827-4D78809F7481@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:575E0461-15FD-448A-8827-4D78809F7481@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

I'm running XP pro and things seem to be fine. I thought I was being 'smart' by adding a second hard drive to my system as a backup. I cloned my primary hard drive and have dutifully backed up changes to the cloned drive thinking that should my primary drive fail I would be prepared with an up-to-date hard drive I could immediately use.

Obviously I don't know what I'm doing because I just happened to

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disconnect  
my cloned drive and my system won't boot.  
After some trial and error,  
it  
seems my system wants both hard drives to  
be able to boot.

Any suggestions on how to repair my master  
drive so it will boot by  
itself?

Am I having issues because there are 2 XP  
system folders that could be  
found?

I did notice an error message of sorts flash  
by that said something  
about  
NTDetect – but that's all I see before it  
reboots itself.

If you have any suggestions on the best  
approach to backing up data and  
well  
as the entire system ---- I am all ears.

Thanks,  
John

"Pegasus" <I.can@xxxxxxx> wrote in message  
[news:OCUc3i0rHHA.1208@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:OCUc3i0rHHA.1208@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

Some questions:

- How exactly did you clone the system partition?
- Which is your primary master disk – the old or the new disk?
- Is the system partition on the old disk still marked "active"?
- How far does the boot process go when booting with a single disk?
- What message do you see when the boot process stalls?  
Press  
the "Pause" key to freeze the boot process, and Enter to unfreeze it.
- What is the contents of the hidden file c:\boot.ini?
- What exactly do you mean with "2 XP system folders"?

"John66" <John66@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message  
[news:C9C8749D-0223-41C7-BFC3-CACA99338A08@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:C9C8749D-0223-41C7-BFC3-CACA99338A08@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

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Thank you all for your suggestions!

In answer to the questions asked by Pegasus:

If I can remember correctly, I think I made a clone of my disk using xxclone. I remember I tried a couple of different ways to clone the entire hard drive (4 partitions) and had problems doing all 4 at once. I had to do them one at a time. I just don't remember exactly what I did – it has been too long.

If I can get the system to boot from the master (original) disk I can try and clone things again and then keep the clone updated – any suggestions on doing this? Is a clone/backup not the best thing to do?

Disk 0 is my primary (master) drive. Disk 1 is the cloned version which I am using for my backup. So my old disk is my master disk.

I checked out disk management and found that disk 0 has a partition that says 'system' and another partition that says 'boot'. On disk 1 (the clone) there is a partition that says 'active'.

When I tried to boot the master disk by itself, it really didn't get very far. I only saw a black screen that flashed white text with 'NTDetect.....' error message and then the PC would reboot. I will have to get back to you on the exact message – I apologize as I realize this would help a lot. I need to wait for another process to complete before I can reboot ( a backup in case I make a mess of this).

The boot.ini file says:

```
[boot loader]
timeout=30
default=multi(0)disk(0)rdisk(0)partition(3)\WINDOWS
[operating systems]
multi(0)disk(0)rdisk(0)partition(3)\WINDOWS="Microsoft Windows XP Professional" /fastdetect
```

My hard drive setup is a bit weird in the way it was originally set up, so partition 3 really is where the OS is located.

What I meant by 2 XP system folders is that if I have a clone of my master drive then I have 2 system folders. One on disk 0 and another on disk 1.

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Thank you so much for your help,  
John

"Pegasus" <I.can@xxxxxxx> wrote in message  
[news:uWWg%23U4rHHA.1296@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:uWWg%23U4rHHA.1296@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

I don't know xxclone but I wonder if it played around with your active partition. Run diskmgmt.msc from the Run box to set the boot partition of disk(0) active. This will probably fix your problem. If it does not then you may have to restore the Master Boot Record, either by using the method suggested by Andy or else by booting the machine with your WinXP CD and following these steps:

- Select "Repair"
- Select "Recovery Console"
- Log on
- Type these commands:  
fixmbr  
fixboot

When cloning a disk with a cloning program then you must avoid having both disks connected during the first boot after the cloning operation.

John:

Pegasus's questions were the right ones and it's good you responded to them...

First of all, you were indeed "smart" to add a second HDD to your system which you plan to use as the recipient of the cloned contents of your day-to-day working HDD, i.e., the "source" disk. It's a most desirable thing to do and with a decent disk imaging/disk cloning program you'll never be sorry you embarked on that course.

Perhaps your initial problem was using that xxclone program. I recall experimenting with that program some time ago and we ran into so many issues (read "problems") with it that we soon discontinued using it. And the feedback we received from other users paralleled our experience. Perhaps it's been improved; I don't know.

Frankly, I think the current partitioning scheme on your primary HDD is a source of problems now & in the future. With that in mind, if the following is at all practical depending upon the programs you have currently installed on your "source" HDD...

1. Could you, in effect, start over by making a fresh install of the XP OS onto that source drive? Unless you have some special multi-partitioning

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needs, why not just create a single partition comprising the entire disk? In recommending this fresh install of the OS, I'm assuming a number of things...

- a. Your user-created data is now available on the "cloned" HDD or some other source (or you can copy whatever data you need to the secondary HDD when both drives are connected and you're able to boot) so that you can copy that data back to your newly-installed XP OS., and,
- b. You can install all the programs you desire since you have the installation media for those programs, and,
- c. You don't mind installing all the MS critical updates since SP2. (I'm assuming if you go ahead with this fresh install of the XP OS it will be undertaken with a XP installation CD including SP2 – or if SP2 is not included on the CD, you will subsequently install that service pack.)

Anyway, assuming you go this route or using Pegasus's latest suggestion or through some other means you're able to get your present system back to some functional state, consider in the future using one of the more tried-and-true disk imaging/disk cloning programs such as Acronis True Image or the Casper 4.0 program (the latter my current favorite) for your disk cloning needs. You won't regret it.

Anna