

RE: Format Hard Disk – XP

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<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.general/2007-12/msg05078.html>

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You have 120GB HDD with only 1 Partition that is C Drive and by default you can not Format or Repartition a Boot and System Partition that is why the both options are grey out in Disk Management. Even you can not do this using a Dos utility while working in Windows.

If you want to repartition, format and reinstall Windows then the best way will be Windows XP Setup itself. You can use the Windows XP Setup for partitioning your hard drive. But it seems that the CD you have is not bootable and the floppy disks are also not working properly.

You can recreate a Bootable Windows XP CD. See the article below to know how you can write a new bootable cd using your current non-bootable cd.

<http://www.tacktech.com/display.cfm?ttid=297>

Just don't forget to backup your data. Because, keep in mind that if you are about to repartition or format your drive then all the data will lost.

Hope this help, let us know!

"Ignorant but Grateful" wrote:

I've tried searches (as you'll see). Forgive me if I've missed the answer that will work for me.

I want to format my C: drive (120GB hard disk).

I tried the Windows XP Pro Computer Management Facility. For my C:, both "partition" and "format" are grayed out...even though I AM logged in as administrator. At this point, the disk isn't partitioned – or, I suppose it's one, big partition.

I tried the DOS prompt (I'm old-school), but of course it didn't work because a program was running. (Windows)

I tried booting up from the CD-ROM, both by interrupting the boot-up with an F12 and by redirecting the BIOS (F2) to boot directly from CD-ROM. The

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boot-up process fails. ("F1 to retry boot, F2 for setup") This is an original, bought-paid-for and-registered CD-ROM.

I downloaded the 6-floppy version of the start-up disk and, again, interrupting the boot-up process (F12) or redirecting the BIOS (F2), have been unable to successfully boot up. ("no boot device available Strike F1 to retry F2 for setup")

Both the floppy drive and the CD-ROM drive function fine for other purposes. The computer works fine too, though the hard disk has gotten so 'dirty' that even Zone Alarm + AdAware + Registry cleaner + Defrag + DiskCleanup + + + won't get the computer (an old Dell Dimension) running even half-fast.

Thanks sincerely for any assistance.