

Re: How to know if a clean XP install is good?

Source:

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- *From:* "HeyBub" <heybub@xxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Tue, 5 Feb 2008 08:53:39 -0600
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shanex wrote:

Let me describe my actual scenario:

I have a good cd drive (plextor premium), and about a year ago I used it to create an iso image (plextor have their own version of iso called .pxi file) of my xp cd, as a backup, to protect against cd damage. In fact I created 2 pxi images of the cd, binary compared them and they were identical. Call these 1.pxi and 2.pxi say.

Yesterday, one year later, I did the same process. Same cd, same drive, same pxi creation tool. I created 3.pxi and 4.pxi and again they were binary identical.
However if I binary compare 1.pxi and 3.pxi there are differences.

My conclusions:

- 1) 1.pxi = 2.pxi and 3.pxi = 4.pxi implies drive is ok
- 2) 1.pxi not equal to 3.pxi implies cd is not ok. And indeed, there are some light marks on the cd which were not there when it was new.

Duh! The creation dates differ.

However I used this cd to install xp successfully, also yesterday. So my dilemma is: I know (almost 100%) that the cd has changed over time due to some very light marking, and yet I get no complaint from the xp installer if I use this cd to install xp.

That's my real question !

Sort of related:

The process used to create CDs on your home computer varies drastically from

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the method used to create CDs commercially.

When Microsoft finishes development of a software package, including XP, they RTM. That's Release to MANUFACTURING, not "duplication." Commercial CD making involves "pressing" an image on an injection molding device, like chiseling a name on a granite tombstone. A CD-R uses a dye that simply changes color when subjected to a particular frequency of light, like printing the Sunday comics.

The durability of a "pressed" CD is virtually infinite in that it is a physical construct. A CD-R, not nearly as long (about five years). CD-Rs degrade over time and use, eventually becoming unreadable.

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