

Boot problems with RAID

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- *From:* sh2811 <sh2811@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
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Hi.

I have 2 drives in mirror configuration, RAID 1, that I have just installed XP Pro SP2 on. All was running OK. I don't think it is relevant but they are SATA (1s), connected to the Master 1 and Master 2 SATA connectors. I have just upgraded from a single 320GB SATA to these 750GB drives and did a reinstall rather than a clone as my system was overdue a clean install. As I said, the system was booting fine to the 750s and I had the old 320GB connected to the Slave 1 port. The original XP installation is left on the 320 as I am in the process of copying across what I need to the 750s (and also so I could reboot to the old setup if I ran into problems... which I now have). The 'new' XP system boots with the 750s as drive C, DVD drives in D & E, the old 320GB as F and then 4 card reader drives after that.

So.... and here's where I went wrong I think. I rebooted and changed the BIOS to boot from the old 320 first as I wanted to export my old Outlook Express settings etc, and left the 2 750s cnonected. The system booted to the old drive OK and now the RAID 'drive' is shown as 2 separate drives (F & G), i.e. not the single mirror drive as the old XP system has no RAID software installed on it. I had no intention of copying any files directly to either of the 2 RAIDs as I didn't want to make any changes to them whilst running the old install. I was being lazy and maybe should have physically disconnected them to avoid any possibility of corrupting the new install. I exported the O.E. data to a folder on the old drive so that I would then be able to copy it after I had rebooted back to the new install. When I went to boot back to the new system I altered the BIOS boot order back to the RAID 750s but now the system just reboots in a continuous loop. It gets past the BIOS boot to where it should start the windows load and flashes a VERY quick message that I can't pause in time to read properly. I think it is mentioning the BOOT.INI but in what context I am not sure. I have booted to the XP setup disc and into the recovery console to try a FIXMBR, that did nothing (bad idea anyway?). I also tried the BOOTCFG command but it tells me it can't find any boot files. The Intel RAID BIOS boot page (after the main BIOS boot page) shows both 750 drives and indicates all is well. Booting to the old 320GB install allows me to browse the 750s and again all looks OK. The boot.ini files on the 750s are the same as on the old 320.

Sorry if this is rambly, it's the early hours of the morning! I expect this

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is an easy one but need someone to point out the obvious to me please!
Was I wrong to think I could reboot with all drives connected BUT back to
the old 320 system and not affect the new setup? Schoolboy error?

Thanks for any pointers.