

# Re: Boot problems with RAID

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*Source:*

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.general/2008-04/msg02541.html>

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- *From:* sh2811 <[sh2811@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:sh2811@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Fri, 11 Apr 2008 14:28:00 -0700
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Hi John. This may be premature but maybe things are OK again. I have now rebooted with just one of the, now un-mirrored, 750s connected and the system did boot up OK. CHKDSK kicked in and found a couple of issues (did I see tracking log or tracking index? wasn't paying enough attention and of course it doesn't wait at the end of the test to allow you to actually read what it says!). I have yet to reconnect the other 750GB and rebuild the mirror but I'm assuming all will be well (hope I'm not tempting fate!).

I wanted to avoid having to un-RAID the drives as the rebuild takes an age but it seems to be the solution.

So thank you VERY much for your time and patience. I am still a bit baffled as to why it happened in the first place. Maybe I was daft to leave the drives hooked up and reboot to the old XP install but what would have happened to cause my problem? I would like to know the answer to that to satisfy my curiosity. I was wary of leaving the drives connected but thought that as long as I didn't write to them I wouldn't risk damaging the mirror and having to rebuild it. I certainly didn't think it would cause these problems. I guess something wrote to them behind my back!?!

By the way.... I think I'm right in thinking that anyone can give out advice on here but you have MVP in your user name. Is that a Microsoft..... V something Professional? Do you actually work for MS or is that an MS qualification?

Thanks again.

"John John (MVP)" wrote:

<http://support.microsoft.com/kb/119467/EN-US/>

I don't know what to make of the fact that the array looks ok from the system ROM or that the Recovery Console's map command appears to see it correctly, but the error message about disk hardware configuration problems tells us its trying to boot from the wrong disk or from a disk that is not on the system, the boot.ini file points to an invalid location.

<http://blogs.msdn.com/ntdebugging/archive/2007/06/28/how-windows-starts-up-part-the-second.aspx>

John

## Re: Boot problems with RAID

sh2811 wrote:

John, sorry to be an idiot but with what sort of boot floppy? The intel raid rom bios boot page, that starts after the main system rom boot page, indicates that the mirror is ok. Also when i'm in recovery mode and do a "map" there is only one 750gb drive listed which indicates to me that all is 'well' else it would list 2 750s wouldn't it?  
Thanks.

"John John (MVP)" wrote:

The signature syntax in the boot.ini file is not unusual:

Windows May Use Signature() Syntax in the Boot.ini File  
<http://support.microsoft.com/kb/227704>

Your mirror may have been broken. See if you can boot the installation with a boot floppy.

John

sh2811 wrote:

Ok... developments. FIXMBR didn't do anything because I of course needed to press F6 during the WinXP setup CD boot to install the correct RAID driver.

Once installed I could then see the windows installation on the new 750 raid drives. (I had also disconnected the old 320GB XP installation drive by now).

I ran FIXMBR (rightly or wrongly again) and rebooted to the 750 raid. I was then told that

"<windowsroot>\system32\hal.dll" file is corrupt or missing.

My suspicion at this point was not that the file was missing or corrupt but rather that the boot process couldn't find it as maybe it didn't know where the <windowsroot> folder is. Rebooting to the recovery console to check, I could see the hal.dll folder in the correct folder.

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Running "bootcfg /scan" found the c:\windows folder ok.

Running "bootcfg /add", which in hindsight I shouldn't have done really as the scan option showed all looked well, allowed me to add a new boot option for the c:\windows install.

A fresh boot and selecting this new boot option tells me that windows could not start because the "system32\drivers\pci.sys" file is missing or corrupt..

The curious thing here, and this might be a red herring, is that it says just "system32" and not c:\windows\system32 or windowsroot\system32 etc.... maybe that's normal though?

Of course the pci.sys file is there OK and I have no reason to suspect it is corrupt.

At this point I think I tried the bootcfg /rebuild option. When I boot now I am told that "windows could not start because of a computer disk hardware configuration problem. Could not read from the selected boot disk. Check boot path and disk hardware...". This further makes me think that the boot process doesn't know where the install folder is even though bootcfg /scan shows it correctly.

The contents of my boot.ini file now contain a few installs!:

```
[boot loader]
timeout=5
default=signature(d8e8b42e)disk(0)rdisk(0)partition(1)\WINDOWS
[operating systems]
signature(d8e8b42e)disk(0)rdisk(0)partition(1)\WINDOWS="XP
PRO bootcfg
rebuild"
signature(d8e8b42e)disk(0)rdisk(0)partition(1)\WINDOWS="Win
XP Pro on C
Drive" /SOS
multi(0)disk(0)rdisk(0)partition(1)\WINDOWS="Microsoft
Windows XP
Professional" /noexecute=optin /fastdetect
C:\CMDCONS\BOOTSECT.DAT="Microsoft
Windows Recovery Console" /cmdcons
```

I'm not sure why the first 2 xp installs have

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the signature field whereas  
the original 750 raid boot option "Microsoft  
Windows XP Professional" use the  
normal "multi(0)..." option. Is this because  
the system needs the intel raid  
driver for bootup and the first two boot  
options are actually correct?

Help!?!?

Thanks.

"John John (MVP)" wrote:

sh2811 wrote:

[snip]

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

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message  
that I can't  
pause in  
time to read  
properly.

Press the F8 key when the  
computer boots and change  
the option to have  
the computer restart on  
system failure and see if you  
can obtain  
information from the stop  
error message.

John