

# Re: General instructions to re-install Windows XP

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<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.general/2008-06/msg02711.html>

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- *From:* Big\_Al <BigAl@xxxxxx>
  - *Date:* Sat, 14 Jun 2008 13:18:22 -0400
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sandy58 wrote:

On Jun 14, 3:17 pm, tcarp <tc...@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

I'm on the journey to learn about doing a WinXP full install. I've actually done this once (without choice) on my laptop when attempting to upgrade from XP Home to XP Pro.

As I've been doing research on the web, it appears doing a periodic full reinstall of Win isn't such a bad idea. My question is about the process.

The way I did it I had to reinstall all Windows upgrades and then the applications and upgrades after the Win install. I also had to make settings like Outlook email accounts, etc. Not such a big deal but for weeks after there were little omissions (Adobe Reader, irfanview, etc.) that I had to reinstall.

So the process generally was:

Win full install, Win upgrades, Win configuration settings (e.g. networks), Applications, Application upgrades, Application configuration settings. Worked but it seems pretty brute force.

What I've found on the net is mostly technical information about creating boot CDs, etc. Before diving into the details, is there a site that provides a very high level view of the overall process and how to cut some of the steps down some? For example, is the Migration Tool useful at all during a reinstall? Is there a checklist (e.g. make as complete a list of all the applications installed)?

For my laptop I have the WinXP CD. I have a friend who will also journey into the reinstall jungle with me who has a Lenova (where there was no CD but it looks like they put something on a HD partition).

Any help getting educated would be appreciated. Just remember to keep it high level for now. I want to get a sense of the journey first.

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Thanks

Tom

Acronis True Image will give you just that. A "true image" of your hdd, preferably made when your PC is running to your taste. You can store the image (on a spare hdd) till you need it (next time your system collapses).

Sandy58 has a great idea. I've reloaded several times, about every 12–18 months. Same long drawn out process. Kills a day. I got ATI about a 6mos. ago so when SP3 came out, I did a fresh reload, put in all the patches, SP3, IE7, WMP11 etc etc., tweaked a few settings my way, loaded a few apps etc and then stripped as much out as I could. Removed Windows Messenger, did a clean up to clear caches etc. I loaded ATI and imaged the drive and got it small enough to get it on a DVD. Now the restore CD and the DVD are sitting there with a great backup way back to a virgin load. I also make monthly images and daily backups of select files.

I agree with everyone on both sides of the fence (non committal I guess) on reloading a system. I used a laptop at the office for like 3 years and never reloaded it. It would have gone longer if I had not retired. I screw with my laptop at home too much and I feel a reload is needed, I guess I could fix it, just didn't. But that kinda tells the story about why people have PC problems, since I "worked" with my pc at the office I did only legit things and didn't install anything so it was clean for a long time, at home I screw around, no wonder it don't work! :-)

Take the time once to load your PC, then image it.

It took me 5–7 hours to get that virgin PC working. And 20 minutes to image it or restore it the next time I need it. A great savings.

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