

## Re: Cannot copy files in use?

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<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.general/2008-07/msg02501.html>

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  - *Date:* Sat, 12 Jul 2008 21:18:12 -0700 (PDT)
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On 13 Jul, 01:39, "Gary S. Terhune" <none> wrote:

The term "full system backup" is used lots, but you're right, I was only concerned with the %systemdrive% partition. And it was made clear, very early on, that the whole reason he started this thread is that he was trying to COPY files to another location in order to "clone (sic)" his system partition. It's when he insisted that he could do it in Win98 so he should be able to do it in XP, and refused to believe that it wouldn't work when told so, that he earned the title "Idiot".

I have no patience for idiots. That simple. I'd prefer he COPY his files to another partition, wipe the existing one, and then try restoring the system. Learn the hard way. Or maybe never be able to get back online ever again. That would be good for the world as a whole. Such WILLFULLY idiocy deserves nothing less than a total yanking of computer privileges.

The point of this thread isn't how to successfully back up XP, it's about a stubborn idiot who obviously knows nothing about Windows XP and yet refuses to believe those who know what they are talking about, which group obviously includes you. Who whines about how he refuses to pay twenty pounds for a solution that will actually work and get him back his system when it falls on its face. Who insists (STILL!!) that there's no difference between Win9x and WinXP. To me, that's just more idiocy. If the data/system is worth backing up, if having it disappear on him would constitute a disaster, then quibbling over a few pounds is just another form of idiocy.

No, when a poster starts out by insisting he already knows all the answers, he deserves nothing but derision. He certainly does NOT deserve any real assistance.

<snip>

Pointless though giving him endless derision and not technical answers.

He is –effectively– asking the question, of why a file backup/copy won't work.

## Re: Cannot copy files in use?

Do you have a technical answer for him?

I suspect that it can be done, but people don't do it because cloning or reinstalling works. And file backup has issues that they don't want to know about.

Here are a few

–files in use / some files that won't copy for that kind of reason, but that has been discussed.

–attributes (though familiarly with xcopy and xxcopy would deal with that, I guess something like xcopy C:\ G:\ /K /H )

–I suppose that NTFS might store other information about files such as permissions of users to access them. The kind of thing one might get a small view of when right clicking a file or folder and going to properties – one gets a view of these things if SFS is turned off. xcopy may copy that , I don't know.

One could always convert to FAT32 and do it. Though

a)Win XP , it's recommended , to be run on NTFS not FAT32 (and you may need some payware like partition magic, to convert it NTFS to FAT32)

b)Say you to convert it to FAT32, do the copy, and then convert to NTFS. Converting an existing Win XP system from FAT32 to NTFS , has some security issue or something. (prob not an issue for most people.

I recall converting my system FAT32 to NTFS with the convert command and not noticing any problem)

– The master boot record.

if that were not right for some reason, one could always boot up the recovery console and try the 3 (win xp recovery console) muskateers  
FIXMBR, FIXBOOT, BOOTCFG /REBUILD

– explorer can be a pain in the ass. It won't leave you alone for the copy that takes hours. You can click Yes, and it will prompt you again to click Yes. You can hold shift and click yes. Then go out and come back and it will have prompted you again. Most people have not learnt xcopy, and most nowadays can't even use copy (most that can, knew MSDOS).

People have done far far trickier hacks than file copying an OS (they have booted windows off USB e.g. a usb flash drive!). The only reason they don't file copy an OS, is because cloning works so well. And reinstalling works without the mentioned "issues" of a file copy. And you can have unattended installations.

Another file copy issue, is that unless there is some hack, Win NT (e.g. Win XP) won't work on a motherboard with a different chipset. Win 9X (e.g. Win98) Did.

One could always do a win xp repair installation afterwards if there

Re: Cannot copy files in use?

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were problems, and that would smooth things out.

This bazzar character is clearly willing to experiment, and isn't an "end user" type that is afraid of messing things up. He probably likes getting into a pickle and picking his way out of it, especially when others say it can't be done and don't give technical reasons why

I've done some things – as experiments – to better understand how the machine works.

There are free ways to clone though, so no reason why one would have to go for a file backup – which turns into a hack.

Some people – many techies – like to be able to do everything – or at least fundamental operations – with freeware or software built into windows. Though with imaging and partitions, most use partition magic and norton/acronis. Freeware cloning software is a new thing and has yet to gain trust. Still, there are cloning utilities from hard drive manufacturers – apparently, though I don't know any techies that use those, I have heard that they work well.

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