

Re: FixMbr?

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<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.general/2008-09/msg02237.html>

- *From:* ManyBeers <ManyBeers@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Sat, 13 Sep 2008 18:57:01 -0700
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"Stephen Harris" wrote:

ManyBeers wrote:

WindowsXP SP 3

Just a couple of minutes ago I attempted to use fixmbr command from a Recovery Console cd(a burned cd image file of recovery console) everything went fine. I saw the command prompt window flash and it even gave me the warning aboutm proceeding.

But whrn I rebooted grub(linux bootloader) was still there. There is nothing wrong with my computer mind you, I can boot in to either system. The only reason I am doing this is to make ntldr my bootloader. Why didn't fixmbr work?

Do you mean that you made a bootable cd image of Recovery Console that loads before the processes of the operating system? The option in boot.ini gives you a choice to load RC before Windows XP loads.

Yes. I realize that now.

Even if you did make a bootable RC image, you don't know that it is exactly equivalent in terms of files and settings as using cmdcons installed on the disk. Remember this observation from AumHa,

Well cmdcoms on my disk was downloaded from links in the Aumha how-to. So neither may be equivalent. My laptop has no Recovery Console natively so when I saw that Aumha how-to it sounded like a good idea, even though I had no idea how to use it. I do now...somewhat.

"The only question many experienced hands with Windows is why it was not included by default. The answer is in most cases was because the

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OEMs did not want to pay a modest licensing fee to include it."

Bill Castner is not going to provide a method to circumvent MS policy because he is a MS-MVP. Since Bill did not mention the possibility of writing this to a bootable RC cd, there is probably not a straight-forward way of writing your C:\cmdcons files to a bootable functional RC cd. If there is such a method, legitimate websites and MS-MVPs are not going to say how to do this in order to circumvent MS policy. It is possible for MS to approve the C:\cmdcons method and not approve a bootable RC method and it does little good to speculate on why. It is a very remote possibility that Bill Castner didn't mention the possibility of creating a bootable RC cd because he didn't think of it.

The other things Bill mentioned to improve the flexibility of RC with registry edits, OTOH, are likely to prove to be very valuable for reasons that people who are not used to reading instructions and following those instructions precisely and exactly can imagine. Of course there are people who just have to find out the hard way for why they should heed the advice to make backups including the registry and the MBR.

ManyBeers wrote: > "There is nothing wrong with my computer mind you, I can boot in to either system."

SH: So have you backed up this functioning MBR? So that in case using fixmbr or fdisk /mbr doesn't work, and you wind up in the position of being unable to boot to either OS, you can restore an MBR that is known to allow you to boot to either system. This actually happened to me when I was experimenting with both fixboot and fixmbr and BootIt NG. You impress me as a dabbler,

I don't know how to back up my MBR. I assumed if something went wrong I would boot into my System Rescue CD and make Ubuntu the bootable partition again., which is relatively easy to do. It will restore Grub to the MBR. Hell ,I used the SRCD to retrieve the GRUB stage 1 file and mounted a fat32 drive to copy the file to(and I have never mounted a drive in my life...unmounted it too). Mounting was done through a Terminal window in SRCD's graphic environment and I unmounted the drive using Gparted another graphic tool. I didn't think I could get in too much trouble so long as I could boot the SRCD.

So it is better to be safe than sorry, an ounce of prevention...etc
Stephen