

# Re: Format Hard Drive

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*Source:*

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.general/2009-04/msg03410.html>

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- *From:* Mark Adams <[MarkAdams@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:MarkAdams@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Thu, 16 Apr 2009 08:52:02 -0700
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"skylux" wrote:

is there a simple answer to why the win XP will not re-intall as the BIOS recognizes the hdd and i have not deleted the fat32 partition, i just reformatted the NTFS partition. i have all the disks from dell – the winxp, diagnostic disk etc. the manual says exactly what i did. on bootup, press f12, insert winxp, choose boot from cd-drive and follow the instructions. dell offers three restores 1) manual restore 2) PC restore 3) system restore.

why does the winxp not recognize the hdd, as its installed an working.

If you have all the disks that Dell supplied with the computer, and are following the instructions for reinstallation that Dell provided and it still doesn't work; I think it might be time to call Dell and have them explain why their restoration process doesn't work. They are the manufacturer, they ought to know.

thanks for replies.

sm

"skylux" wrote:

i tried to load win xp, after formatting the harddrive and leaving the fat32 intact. as you mentioned, the WinXP Set Up Home Edition – gave the following message –

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"Setup did not find any hdd installed on your pc. Make sure any hdd are powered on and properly connected to th pc and that any hdd related hardware configuration problem is correct. This may involve a manufacture supplied diagnostic or setup program. Setup cannot continue. Press F3 to Quit".

Is there a patch for this? The BIOS does recognize the hdd.

thanks

sm

"Bill in Co." wrote:

Dell (or at least some of them) use one partition as a restore partition (which restores the Dell to just it was the day it was shipped), and another as a diagnostic partition. And I believe they were both primary partitions, hidden, and FAT or FAT32. If you delete any of those partitions, you \*will\* have bootup problems, without doing some patchwork.

Tim Meddick wrote:

Acer computers use a small-sized hidden Fat partition as the restore (after catastrophic failure) partition.

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Cheers, Tim Meddick, Peckham, London.

"Bill in Co."

<not\_really\_here@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message

[news:%23hy4ZZkvJHA.248@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:%23hy4ZZkvJHA.248@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

In which case it would be wisest to leave it there. For example, if it is a Dell, and you delete one of those Dell partitions, you may not be able to boot up without a

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fair amount of work,  
because part of the Dell  
MBR boot up process  
expects those partitions to  
be there.

Daave wrote:

Or it could  
be a  
diagnostic  
partition  
(which I  
would  
recommend  
keeping).  
What is the  
make and  
model of  
the PC? Did  
the PC  
come with  
this hard  
drive?

JS wrote:

Then  
it  
could  
be  
a  
Restore  
Partition  
created  
by  
the  
PC  
vendor.

"skylux"  
<skylux@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>  
wrote  
in  
message  
[news:4ECAC56E-5485-479C-B423-8BE29FE408CD@xxx](mailto:news:4ECAC56E-5485-479C-B423-8BE29FE408CD@xxx)

apologies

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71mb.

"JS"  
wrote:

Did  
you  
mean  
to  
say  
71GB  
or  
is  
it  
really  
71MB  
partition?

--  
JS  
<http://www.pagestart.com>

"skylux"  
<skylux@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>  
wrote  
in  
message  
<news:BBCE58A6-DC67-4181-BB1C-9D2>

hi,  
  
i  
am  
trying  
to  
format  
a  
300gb  
hardrive.  
in  
win  
xp  
sp3  
under  
computer  
management  
and  
then

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disk  
management,  
i  
can  
detect  
the  
harddrive.  
the  
problem  
is  
that  
it  
shows  
1)  
drive  
letter  
H:  
and  
232.75gb  
NTFS  
healthy  
configuration  
and  
71  
mb  
FAT  
healthy  
EISA  
configuration.  
now,  
i  
can  
easily  
format  
the  
NTFS  
configuration  
but  
i  
can't  
get  
rid  
of  
the  
FAT  
partition.  
  
any  
suggestions  
on  
how

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to  
make  
the  
harddrive  
"whole"  
with  
no  
partitions  
and  
just  
300mb  
NTFS  
healthy  
configuration?

thanks  
sm