

Re: problem with XP and 200 Gb harddrive

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.hardware/2004-08/1275.html>

From: Art (noonehere_at_longone.net)

Date: 08/07/04

Date: Sat, 7 Aug 2004 09:10:05 -0400

"Andy" <anonymous@discussions.microsoft.com> wrote in message news:1c2901c47c33\$91d04ba0\$a401280a@phx.gbl...

> *Hi*

>

> *I recently purchased a copy of Windows XP Home Edition and*

> *a Maxtor 200 GB harddrive. My motherboard(Asus A7v133)*

> *detects it as a 189 Gb harddrive. (I know that it will*

> *not say a full 200.) But Windows XP says it is 127 GB.*

> *My BIOS are up to date and I downloaded the patch from*

> *Maxtor that made it so XP could detect larger harddrives.*

> *If anyone knows a solution to this dilemma, any help would*

> *be appreciated. A fix without having to format would be*

> *preferable. Well, thanks in advance!*

>

> *Andy*

Andy:

I assume that you did not install SP1 when you originally installed Windows XP. The actual capacity of your 200 GB hard drive is about 186 GB (in binary terms). The 189 GB your BIOS is reporting is close enough. I note you state Windows XP reports the capacity of your HD as 127 GB. I'm not sure if that's a typo since the OS should be reporting 137 GB, assuming you installed XP without SP1.

Assuming, as you state, that the mainboard's BIOS supports large-capacity drives, i.e., drives greater than 137 GB, the Windows XP OS (not including SP1) will recognize a maximum capacity of 137 GB so that the maximum partition one can create will be that size. Should the drive have a greater capacity, the remaining disk space will not be recognized by the operating system. If, however, the XP installation disk includes SP1, then the full capacity of the disk will be recognized.

Again, assuming the mainboard's BIOS supports large-capacity drives, when SP1 is subsequently installed, the full capacity of that drive greater than 137 GB will be recognized -- the 137 GB that was partitioned/formatted when XP (less SP1) was installed; the remaining GB will be shown as "unallocated

space" -- space that you can subsequently partition/format using XP's Disk Management utility. But note that it will be a second partition on the disk. The only way to create a single 200 GB (actually, about 186 GB) partition on that disk in this situation would be through Partition Magic or similar program.

You do not need, nor, in my opinion, should you use the Maxtor Big Drive Enabler software patch under the conditions that I've indicated above, i.e., your BIOS supports large-capacity disks and your XP OS includes SP1. These so-called "overlay" programs seem to cause more user grief than they should over the long-term. They seem certain to rise up and "bite" you at some future date when, should the need arise, you have to repartition/reformat your drive.

Art