

Re: Re: Re: Problem Finding Hard Drive Involving Cloning

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.hardware/2007-02/msg00642.html>

- *From:* Jethro <Wilson@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Tue, 13 Feb 2007 19:06:20 GMT
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On Tue, 13 Feb 2007 12:53:15 -0500, "Anna" <myname@xxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

"Jethro" <Wilson@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
<news:itb3t25cvpemrq8rppkeqcncbhhs084d5c@xxxxxxxxxxxx>

This sure seems strange to me.

I have two 120GB hard drives as Primary Master & Slave. I use the latter to clone back-up the former. I found it worked fine as long as I remembered to follow the cloning IMMEDIATELY with a boot-up from the slave drive so it could initialize. I did this by changing the boot sequence in the AMI BIOS V8.00.09 that I have so that I would boot from the slave drive. Then I would reverse the booting back to normal and both drives would be recognized properly by WXP PRO. If I failed to do this extra step, I found that WXP would not recognize the slave drive at all.

That has been fine, until now. I added a third 160GB hard drive as Secondary Slave (my DVDRW drive is on Secondary Master). It worked just fine. I decided to start cloning back-ups on that third drive, and it went fine. Until I tried booting-up from it, as I was doing before, that is. I am finding that I

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can boot-up fine from that drive, but when I look at My Computer, the former boot-drive (still on Primary Master) is not recognized at all! However, if I revert back to the normal setup, and boot-up from Primary Master, all is fine, and all three drives are recognized by My Computer. And in fact, the clone target-drive looks okay content-wise as I guess it should since it does boot-up okay.

So I am wondering why this is happening. I'm not sure it is hurting me, but I think something might be wrong.

Help anyone?

Jethro

On Tue, 13 Feb 2007 10:00:41 -0500, "Anna" <myname@xxxxxxxx> wrote:

Jethro:

Let me first address the information contained in your first paragraph re the process you followed concerning the disk cloning of your two HDDs. You were luckier than you thought in that you had no subsequent problems booting from either HDD following the disk cloning operation. You indicated that immediately following the disk cloning operation from your source to your destination HDD, you made the initial boot to the newly-cloned HDD by changing the boot order of your BIOS so that the system would boot to the cloned HDD.

While we always emphasize that the initial boot to the newly-cloned HDD should be undertaken immediately following the disk cloning operation, we stress that the source HDD be *disconnected* from the system, i.e., no

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other storage devices should be physically connected to the PC at the time that initial boot to the newly-cloned HDD is undertaken. In our opinion, merely changing the boot priority order in the BIOS (while the source HDD is connected) is insufficient to prevent potentially future boot problems that could affect either the source or destination HDD.

(That is so even if the

system initially boots to the newly-cloned HDD without any problem). Note I said "potentially". These problems don't always arise; they obviously didn't in your case as you related it. But we have seen too many cases where boot problems *did* occur in the future because the source HDD was connected at the time the initial boot to the newly-cloned HDD was undertaken immediately following the disk-cloning operation.

Now as to why your PM HDD is not being recognized in the system when you boot to your third newly-cloned HDD – I don't know (unless it's related to the above scenario in some way). I assume that no drive letter has been assigned to the PM under those circumstances. Have you tried Disk Management to see if you can manipulate things there? Assuming the PM is also not detected in Device Manager, have you highlighted the Disk drives entry and invoked the "Scan for hardware changes" command?

Assuming when you boot to the third HDD you have no interest in accessing data on the PM HDD, I suppose you could live with the present situation assuming there's no problem booting to either the PM or the

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PS and all
three
HDDs are accessible under those circumstances. Is that
right?
Anna

"Jethro" <Wilson@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
news:13m3t29j4f7nolpdakof5qq00ihk2i2n43@xxxxxxxxxxxx

This surprises me because it would mean that I would have to open up my tower every time I do a backup in order to be sure that the clone backup is valid. After all, a backup is only good if it 'works'. In the past I have experienced cases where a clone backup made the clone copy just fine, and it looked fine. But when I went to use it as a new boot drive because the copied drive failed – it would not boot. Ergo not much good. Further I don't think the IDE cabling and/or the power connectors are intended for constant separation and re-connecting. I find them to be very fragile.

Thanks for your response though. I fear I am working in a chancy situation here.

Just how would you verify that a clone copy is a valid one?

Jethro

Jethro:

Well, the obvious way to determine that the cloned HDD is a true clone, i.e., it will boot straightaway if it is the sole bootable HDD present in the system and then functions without problems following that boot is to simply try it. If there **is** a problem along the lines I've described above it will usually manifest itself when the cloned HDD will not boot **unless** the source (bootable) HDD is present (connected) in the system. What happens in that situation is that the system will boot to the cloned HDD but that drive will be assigned a drive letter other than C: (assuming that was the source HDD's drive letter assignment). Thus you will not be able to boot directly to the cloned HDD unless the original source HDD is connected in the system.

Yes, you're right. It's usually an onerous situation where one would be required in every case following the disk cloning operation to physically disconnect the source HDD before undertaking that initial boot to the cloned HDD to ensure no future boot problems. But as I previously inferred, the problem does not **always** occur. (That is why I referred to this as a "potential" problem). In many (perhaps even most) instances it simply doesn't matter if the source HDD is connected at the time of the initial boot to the cloned HDD. There will be no future problems. But in a

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significant number of instances the problem we've discussed will occur. And we've found that when there is no original boot problem along the lines we've described and where there are no basic hardware changes made to the system in the future, there should be no problems in subsequent disk cloning operations.

BTW, we generally work with removable HDDs in our desktop systems and encourage our customers and others to install that type of hardware configuration. So it's no problem for the user whatsoever disconnecting one or the other HDDs when the need arises (for any reason).

I might also mention that the boot problem we've been discussing seems to affect PATA and not SATA HDDs, i.e., as long as the BIOS will allow you to select one or the other bootable SATA drives to boot to, it's unnecessary to disconnect the source SATA HDD before undertaking the initial boot to the destination SATA HDD.

It will be interesting to learn if you've been able to overcome the non-recognition problem with your PM HDD when you boot to your third HDD, and if so, just what caused that problem. So keep us informed.
Anna

Thanks again Anna.

A couple of things hit me real quick. First – you must be reading my mind – I was thinking of replacing my two PATAs with SATAs. If this problem does not exist with the SATAs, then that is even more motivation for me to buy the SATAs. I am hoping Geo Wash will have his usual sales.

On the other hand, I am thinking now that I should NOT be using cloning for back-ups. I maybe should use imaging instead – that is maybe I should back up to images of my source HDD. At least I would not have to worry about booting the target. Of course, the main reason I chose cloning was because I thought I then could always validate the correctness of a backup on the spot, and the backup would be complete, including the OS, all applications, and all data as of the backup date, minimizing what I would have to do to get going again on a current basis. All I would have to is 'plug in the drive'. It's like having a second car in the garage, all gassed up, ready to go in an emergency. With an image, all I could do is hope that if I ever have to restore, the result will work (boot that is). Consecutive, round-robin image-backups would help in that area. Say, weekly backups – restarting every month.

Jethro
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