

# Re: Installing XP on a Fried Motherboard?

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*Source:*

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.hardware/2007-04/msg00724.html>

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- *From:* Paul <nospam@xxxxxxxxxxx>
  - *Date:* Fri, 20 Apr 2007 04:11:15 -0400
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oldsawfever@xxxxxxxxxxx wrote:

Hello everyone!

My wife's computer got a severe voltage spike and fire the motherboard,(478pin)Compaq Pesario S5100nx using Windows XP so I bought a new ECS nForce3-A motherboard & AMD 3000+ CPU Plus fan and no way to backup what is on the harddrive.

The computer will let me into the BIOS setup and everything is still on the HD but It won't open Windows.

It won't open in safe Mode or in Last known good configuration,it will take me to a command prompt (Black Screen) but I don't know where to go from there?

I need to save Docs & spreadsheet from HD so I can't do a clean install. Can I do(& how) a reinstall and save the documents on my HD?

Any help would be Greatly Appreciated!  
Mike E.

Take the disk to another computer ? The very first thing I'd want to do, is back up the disk somehow, before an accident happens. If you have another WinXP computer, that should be able to understand an NTFS disk.

A repair install, is how you would normally attempt to try to fix it. A repair install leaves settings and applications alone. It takes the OS back to the revision level of the install CD, so any missing Service Packs or Security Updates need to be added after it is finished. Yes, a repair install can go wrong, which is why a backup is recommended. Any time I move my boot disk from my old computer, into my latest build, the first step is imaging the original disk so I have some insurance if things go horribly wrong.

Some warnings:

<http://cquirke.mvps.org/reinst.htm>

Repair install:

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<http://www.michaelstevensstech.com/XPrepairinstall.htm>

To be visible, the disk connected to a new motherboard, may need a driver, when the previous system didn't need one. A driver can be added by pressing F6 at the appropriate time and offering a floppy with the driver on it. So that is another tiny little detail. That tends to be necessary, if the storage connector on the motherboard, goes to a chip other than the Southbridge.

Your new motherboard...

<http://www.ecs.com.tw/ECSWebSite/Products/ProductsDetail.aspx?DetailID=502&CategoryID=1&DetailName=Feat>  
<http://64.124.27.138/ecs/manual/mb/eng/k8/NFORCE3-A.pdf>

After looking at this thread, it would seem that the WinXP built in drivers would work, as long as you aren't using a RAID setting in the BIOS. The BIOS by default should be in a non-RAID state, suitable for repairing WinXP without needing F6.

[http://groups.google.ca/group/alt.comp.periphs.mainboard.msi-microstar/browse\\_frm/thread/5a75d88956739caa/315d](http://groups.google.ca/group/alt.comp.periphs.mainboard.msi-microstar/browse_frm/thread/5a75d88956739caa/315d)

Having two computers to work with, at a time like this, is infinitely preferable to trying to perform miracles with only one. In my home setup, I've even managed to break two computers at the same time, requiring using a third to repair them/surf the net for answers and so on. A second working computer, would give you some place to backup the disk, or find the valuable files you want to save.

I see in your other post, you do have another computer. Check the jumpers on the two drives on the IDE chain, to make sure they are set up properly, if attempting to backup the disk on your computer. (Master and Slave, or both Cable Select with an 80 wire cable. An 80 wire IDE cable is desirable in any case, for best signal quality.)

Paul

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