

Re: How do I move files to my new PC?

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- *From:* "Anna" <myname@xxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Tue, 5 Jun 2007 22:53:48 -0400
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"Michael T" anonymous@xxxxxxxx wrote in message
news:eN5DlvtxEHA.2752@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
A dear friend just purchased a new computer running Windows XP for his
business.

As an experienced software engineer he asked me to help him
'everything' from his old computer running Windows 98.

Unfortunately he does not have all of his installation CD-ROMs.
So is it correct to assume that going to Start All Programs
Accessories- System Tools Files and Settings Transfer Wizard is of
little help.
It is my understanding that this is used primarily (if not exclusively)
for
transferring settings/data for Windows applications only like IE, OE
and perhaps Word & Excel.

So I have to wonder how do I transfer non-Windows applications
(including Registry settings)?

Aren't there some kind of programs out there for 'ghosting' the hard
drive from one PC to another?

If so, will they work for the scenario I have just described? And if
they do, is there a problem if the NEW hard drive is partitioned for ONE
drive only (i.e. drive C:)?

Thank you for your time.

Michael T.-

R. C. White Wrote:
Hi, Michael.

In addition to moving from one computer to the other, your friend has

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the problem of migrating the software from Win98 to WinXP. Win98 is built on MS-DOS, as you probably know, while WinXP is built on the NT architecture. Thus, the two Windows versions deal with hardware much differently. (Device drivers that work in Win98 almost certainly won't work in WinXP, but that is not likely to be a problem in this case, since WinXP is already running on the new machine.) While the Windows user interface still looks much the same on the screen, there are lots of differences below the surface.

Simply copying all the application program files to the new computer would not be enough to allow them to run there. Each must be installed, from the CD-ROMs or other original media, in WinXP so that it can make its required entries in the new WinXP Registry. It doesn't matter if the application is from Microsoft or Adobe, Quicken or some other source.

When transitioning from Win98 to WinXP on the same computer, we can use the "upgrade" method. This first installs WinXP, replacing Win98's operating system files, and then attempts to migrate all the installed applications, reading the Win98 Registry and making WinXP Registry entries >> based on those. In your friend's situation, that won't be possible because there is no upgrade on a single machine. But many users, even after "upgrading" in this way, find that they have carried over so much deadwood from their pre-WinXP life that they eventually reformat their drive and reinstall WinXP and all their applications, anyhow.

Data, of course, is quite different from the applications that created all those files of photos, music, financial data, letters, etc. Data files can simply be copied by any convenient means (floppies, CD-R, direct cable connect?) from the old HD to the new. Often, the easiest way is to physically remove the old HD from the old computer and temporarily install it as a secondary drive in the new computer to transfer the files. WinXP doesn't care whether the drive(s) have one partition each or dozens, or whether they are formatted FAT32 or NTFS.

RC

Re: How do I move files to my new PC?

—
R. C. White, CPA
San Marcos, TX
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Microsoft Windows MVP

"witteman" <witteman.2row2p@xxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
news:witteman.2row2p@xxxxxxxxxxxxx

Hello R.C. good stuff on the subject of migration.

I will be facing the same ordeal pretty soon when I will buy my new laptop next month or so. I have a 6 year old Fujitsu Lifebook loaded with my business applications and all my data and one of these days it is going to cause problems (20 gbyte HDD is 70% full).

I am thinking of an HP 9000 series should I go for FAT32 or NTFS and if the HDD of the new laptop is FAT32, should I reformat and reinstall the OEM OS and applications from scratch, this is the chance to get rid of all the deadwood that you described so well...

Please advise

Frank

Michael:

As Frank has indicated, R. C. White has explained the migration-of-data process very well concerning a transition from a Win98 OS to a WinXP one. While awaiting any further response from R. C. White to Frank's and/or your query let me give you some of my thoughts on the matter...

1. First of all, if those "business applications" that you refer to on your friend's present (desktop?) PC that contains a Win98 OS are crucial to him – as I expect they are – you should not at the outset tamper with that PC's HDD in any way except to use a disk imaging program to either create a disk image of the drive or clone the contents of that drive to an external HDD as a backup device in the event that at one time or another you have to manipulate the data contents of that HDD. I assume you or your friend are already employing some type of routine backup system. At least I hope that's the case.
2. Your friend's new (desktop?) PC will, of course, be equipped with the XP OS, formatted NTFS as you have indicated. While, in theory, you could format its drive FAT32 (using, for example, a Win98 startup boot disk), and thus in the process delete the entire contents of that HDD, and then fresh install the XP OS, it's questionable whether you should pursue that course since,

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for a variety of reasons – primarily performance & security issues – NTFS is a significantly superior file system as compared with FAT32. So unless he has a special & overriding need for the FAT32 file system I think it would be in his best interest to leave well enough alone.

Then, too, if the new PC is an OEM machine and a "full" XP installation CD is not available because the system includes *only* a recovery/restore type of XP installation CD, then the above may not even be feasible.

I assume you're aware that the XP OS – either during the installation of the OS or subsequently through its Disk Management utility – has a 32 GB limitation re formatting partitions FAT32. But, as noted above, the XP OS can be happily installed on FAT32 partitions > 32 GB if such partitions already exist at the time of the OS installation process.

BTW, I'm assuming that your friend's new PC will be equipped with a large-capacity HDD, e.g. > 120 GB. If that be so, another potential problem re formatting that HDD with the FAT 32 file system might be that one could run into future data corruption issues using a large-capacity HDD with the FAT32 OS. So that's another negative to keep in mind.

3. In summary, re the above, there would seem to be little or no reason for you to format your friend's new PC's HDD FAT32 unless those business applications you refer to and possibly the user-created data in connection with those programs are *only* compatible with a FAT32 file system. And furthermore he's unable to obtain updates to those programs & data so that they would be compatible with an XP OS, or he cannot use any other XP-designed similar program as a practical substitute, so that you would have really no choice in the matter but to employ the FAT32 file system. Even then there could be a compatibility problem using those programs in an XP environment, regardless of the file system in use (see below).

4. However, as R. C. White has pointed out, while there's likely no problem copying over the user-created data from the old to the new machine, there's little or no chance that your friend's programs can be successfully ported over to an XP OS installation, *regardless* of the file system employed on the latter. Hopefully he has the installation media for those programs and even more hopefully they will be compatible in an XP environment. As you can imagine that is not always the case with many programs that have been designed for a Win9x/Me OS.

Anna

Frank:

I hope it is, but I'm not sure if any of the above is relevant or helpful to your situation.

Anna

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