

Re: laptop – new HD – no CD or floppy drive

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.hardware/2007-10/msg00092.html>

- *From:* "JohnB" <jbrigan@xxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Wed, 3 Oct 2007 10:45:54 -0400
-

I'm confused about which partition will ultimately be the XP partition I've got Win98 booting from the C: partition, and D: contains the i386 folder.

And I noticed that when winnt runs, it copies files to C:

I partitioned them the way I did, thinking D: would only be used to store the i386 folder. (For imaging software, I use Ghost. And I could fit a compressed image in that 5gb partition.) And, I would like the final location of the XP partition to be as large as possible. That was my reasoning.

Sorry, but I need a picture to understand this :)
This is how I see what you described in your instructions:

Partition 1 Partition 2

```
-----  
||| |
|E: || C: |  
|i386 || SmartDrv |  
||| Win98 |  
-----
```

20 gb Remaining gb

I'll use Himem the next time around, but I have a feeling this didn't work for other reasons too.

Before I try this again; your instructions say run winnt from C: – I guess you meant E: ?

When I run fdisk, the first partition letter defaults to c: How would you get it to be E:?

And now that I see that partition 2 is ultimately going to be the XP boot partition, I'll make it much larger.... like 35gb

Any other suggestions? By the way, thanks for your time on this.

Re: laptop – new HD – no CD or floppy drive

"Pegasus (MVP)" <I.can@xxxxxxx> wrote in message
news:OqkWRgcBIHA.748@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

I suppose you have since found out that smartdrv does not create a virtual drive. It is a disk caching program that speeds up the installation process enormously.

I wonder why you created your partitions the way you did. Having partition 2 at 5 GBytes is useless – you might as well do with out it. However, if you omit it then you may not be able to use imaging programs as per my first reply.

I suggest you give it another try, this time WITH smartdrv. AFAIR, you will also need himem.sys plus a reference in c:\config.sys like so:
device=c:\himem.sys

"JohnB" <jbrigan@xxxxxxx> wrote in message
news:uS4vnZcBIHA.1212@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Ok, I tried this the first time through not quite sure what I would use SmartDrv for, and I had a problem (I know what it is; it creates a virtual drive from RAM).

This is what I did;

- created 2 partitions; 1 = 35 gb and 2 = 5gb
- formatted both as FAT32
- Sys'd partition 1 (C:)
- the 2nd partition is D:
- copied the I386 folder from the CD to d:\i386
- put the HD back in the laptop and booted to Win98 command prompt
- from d:\i386, ran Winnt
- at that point it told me it could not find SmartDrv (now I know why it's needed)
- selected the option to proceed without SmartDrv
- it gave me a message saying "copying files to drive"
- and then it stopped, seemingly in the middle of setup. The laptop was not locked up. But it was still on the screen titled copying files.

Where'd I go wrong, other than not having SmartDrv?

You're on the right track but you need to make some adjustments:

Re: laptop – new HD – no CD or floppy drive

1. Connect the new disk to the desktop PC.
2. Partition & format it like so:
First partition: 20 GBytes FAT32
Second partition: NTFS or FAT32.
3. Boot the desktop with a Win98 boot disk (www.bootdisk.com).
Make sure that smartdrv.exe is on that disk.
4. Run this command: sys c:. ((assuming that E: is the first partition on the new disk)
5. Copy a:\smartdrv.exe to c:\.
6. Boot the desktop into WinXP.
7. Copy your WinXP CD to E:\i386 (assuming that E: is the first partition on the new disk).
8. Install the new disk on the laptop. It should now boot into DOS.
9. Run smartdrv.exe.
10. Run this command to start the installation of Windows:
c:\i386\winnt
11. When finished, convert drive C to NTFS if desired.

With an ultraslim laptop like yours you must take extra precautions to protect yourself against similar mishaps in future. Get yourself a copy of an imaging program (e.g. Acronis TrueImage), then create an image of drive C: and store it on drive D:. The next step is to copy that image file to an independent medium so that you can restore it if the disk should fail again (which, of course, it won't!).