

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

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.hardware/2007-10/msg00133.html>

- *From:* "JohnB" <jbrigan@xxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Thu, 4 Oct 2007 15:46:58 -0400
-

Well, I think you're right about condition "C" below.

I put the laptop HD back in the PC and I could boot from it. It will not boot when in the laptop.

And as luck would have it... the PC that I have does not have BIOS settings for HD geometry. It's an older PC, a Dell Dimension 8200. And like you said, the laptop has NO settings for that.

I didn't achieve what I wanted to but, I sure learned some helpful things for the future.

Thanks!!!

"Pegasus (MVP)" <I.can@xxxxxxx> wrote in message
<news:OWrhJwpBIHA.3848@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

You may see this message

- a) If the primary partition has an incorrect boot sector.
- b) If the boot partition is not marked "active".
- c) If the disk geometry is incorrect.

Conditions a) and b) can be fixed retrospectively:

a) Boot sector:

- Connect the laptop disk as the sole disk to a desktop PC.
- Boot that PC with your Win98 boot disk.
- Type this command: fdisk /mbr

b) Active partition:

- Connect the laptop disk as the sole master disk to a desktop PC.
 - Boot that PC with your Win98 boot disk.
 - Type this command: fdisk
- then mark the primary partition "active".

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c) is a much more difficult problem. On desktop machines the BIOS usually lets you select a disk geometry of Auto, LBA (Logical Block Addressing) or CHS (Cylinder/Head Sector). On laptops this option is frequently absent. If the laptop expects one type of geometry and the disk was partitioned under a different geometry then the machine won't boot. What's worse is that the condition is not easily detected. I know of a single program that tells me – it is an obsolete version of PQMagic.

If a) or b) fail to deliver then you have to start all over again and do it by trial and error like so:

- Connect the laptop disk as a slave disk to a desktop PC.
- In the BIOS, select LBA for the slave disk.
- Launch Windows.
- Delete all partitions on the laptop disk, then recreate them. Remember that the primary partition must be an active FAT32 partitions.
- Manually copy these hidden files to the laptop primary partition:
c:\ntdetect.com
c:\ntldr
c:\boot.ini
- See if the laptop will boot with this disk. It should complain with a message that it cannot find ntoskrnl.
- Repeat the above exercise with a CHS setting.

After you have found the correct drive geometry, proceed as per the previous posts.

"JohnB" <jbrigan@xxxxxxxx> wrote in message
news:OKLU8bpBIHA.5328@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

I got further with it this time. I added the config file with the himem command, and used SmartDrv.
It finished copying all the files, then I get the message saying "Windows has completed the DOS portion of Setup, press Enter to reboot and complete Setup"

But, at bootup I get "NTLDR missing".

It seems like this "should" work. Have you gotten this method to work?

BTW – it did install XP to the first partition

"Pegasus (MVP)" <I.can@xxxxxxx> wrote in message
news:%23WzEjWdBIHA.748@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

See below.

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"JohnB" <jbrigan@xxxxxxxx> wrote in message
news:ePKErwcBIHA.3400@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

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.

A 5 GByte partition is too small for an image. WinXP tends to consume between 9 and 15 GBytes after a while, and since imaging programs achieve a compression of about 50%, you need around 10 GBytes for drive D:.

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: ?

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I expected you to create the i386 folder on the first partition, hence the C: drive letter. However, it does not matter where the i386 folder resides. On the other hand you must make sure that WinXP installs on the first partition. Do NOT allow it to go to the second partition!

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.

You're welcome.

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

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

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smartdrv.
AFAIR, you will also need
himem.sys plus a reference
in
c:\config.sys like so:
device=c:\himem.sys

"JohnB"
<jbrigan@xxxxxxxxxx>
wrote in message
news:uS4vnZcBIHA.1212@xx

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

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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?

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

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(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

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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

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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

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can
restore
it
if
the
disk
should
fail
again
(which,
of
course,
it
won't!).