

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

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<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.hardware/2007-10/msg00137.html>

- *From:* "David Vair" <dvair@xxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Thu, 4 Oct 2007 18:26:20 -0400
-

If you were able to actually boot the drive on the PC you could try using the Sysprep utility along with the Plug and Play switch to get it to search for the new hardware when booting on the laptop. Just Google Sysprep and you can find many sites with walkthrough for this.

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Dave Vair
CNE, CNA, MCP, A+, N+

"JohnB" <jbrigan@xxxxxxxxx> wrote in message news:uQS0k9rBIHA.1168@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

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.

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- 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".

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@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

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?

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BTW – it did install XP to the first partition

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

See below.

"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 :)

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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: ?

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.

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You're welcome.

"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.

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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@xxxxxxxxxx>
wrote in
message
news:uS4vnZcBIHA.1212@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

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

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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

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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

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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

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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
(www.bootdisk.com).
Make
sure
that
smartdrv.exe
is
on

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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

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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

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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

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fail
again
(which,
of
course,
it
won't!).