

Re: Boot Problem

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.hardware/2009-01/msg00523.html>

- *From:* "Bill Blanton" <bblanton@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Sun, 18 Jan 2009 14:35:06 -0500
-

That's why I don't use partition/imaging programs that run from within Windows. The GUI's nice and ADD is an excellent program, but Windows is always in the way.. Especially so for NT based OSs.

I just installed ADD into a virtual machine to get a better feel for it. The following steps work for me for cloning the system to an empty drive, and then being able to boot the "clone" (to use the term somewhat loosely)

- 1) clear the destination drive of any and all partitions
- 2) right-click "Disk 1" > Advanced > Copy MBR > select the dest disk
- 3) right-click the system source partition > copy > click the dest > next > make ****sure**** to choose Pimary partition in the "Copy as:" drop down list > ("logical" is the default) > ok out
- 4) Commit changes > let Acronis reboot to do the copy and reboot. again..
- 5) Open Acronis again after Windows loads
- 6) Right mouse click the dest disk > Advanced > Edit
- 7) Put a 00h (those are zeros) in the "Windows NT serial number" edit field > exit > save
- 8) Close Acronis
- 9) Shut down Windows
- 10) Remove the dest drive, and cable the source drive in its place. Note that ADD will probably autorun again (God knows why), but it should eventually boot to Windows.

I see a lot of posts in here about the ability of Acronis to clone drives. I don't see anything to suggest that that is so. Maybe there would be less headache if using its bootable media outside of Windows?

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"barrowhill" <barrowhill@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
news:408F1923-5774-497B-A917-6471026730A7@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Bill,

Thanks for your continued replies.

When copying partions using Disc Director, when you "commit" to the process after performing the actions to required to copy, the procedure requires a reboot. On rebooting, Disc Director auto starts. The partitions are analyzed and locked , ancillary actions undertaken (label, drive letter) then copying commences. When completed system will reboot on original drive.

At this time one can change over to image drive as partition has been copied. When booting on image drive, Disc Director auto boots, checks partitions, assigns drive letter, synchronises etc. then starts up.

I'm always failling with "Error; Partition configuration has changed. Press Key to reboot....." at copy partition time.

I have managed to successfully copy by DELETING partition, then creating (a new)partition, formatting partition, then copying partition. On swapping to image drive this failed to start because NTLDR missing???? Not sure whats's going on

"Bill Blanton" wrote:

The steps would go something like this:

- 1) Copy the MBR from the source to the destination drive (probably unecessary at this point)
- 2) copy the partition (unecessary at this point)
- 3) set the partition active on the copy
- 4) zero out the sig on the copy.
- 5) shut down / recable / boot

I'm not sure that that is what the problem is, but that will for all intents and purposes give you a bootable clone of the

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source drive's %system% partition.

"barrowhill" <barrowhill@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
news:1E23E3DC-8A0F-43D5-AE7B-EE76E9768B47@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Bill,

Thanks for putting me right.....NT Serial number changed as advised.

Partition copied. Rebooted. Acronis auto runs, Partitions analyzed, partitions locked but during partion checking, notified....."Error; Partition configuration has changed. Press Key to reboot....."

Reboot. Run acronis. Obviously no partition copy. Check previous disk edit. Serial number "restored" (no longer 0...0h)

Note restored in quotes . As an aside I changed NT serial number to 0...0h, closed acronis (no partition copying), reopened and found serial number "restored". Serial number not same as before.

"Bill Blanton" wrote:

You're in the partition's boot sector page. To get to the disk's MBR you need to click the disk icon to the left (in the graphic at the bottom), or the text "Disk #" at the top and then do an advanced > edit. (IOW, you want to edit the disk, not the partition.)

Then fill the NT serial number with zeros.

"barrowhill"
<barrowhill@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
wrote in message
news:81429B2A-A0D9-4657-8CC1-C601A3B006CC@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Bill,

1) Acronis Disc Director is
v10 Build 2160

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- 2) Screen shot sent
- 3) Boot Signature: comment noted
- 4) Microsoft Dynamic Disc: No
- 5) GoBack installed: No

"Bill Blanton" wrote:

Also;

Was either
disk set up
as a
Microsoft
dynamic
disk?

Do you
have
Goback
installed?

"Bill
Blanton"
<bblanton@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
wrote in
message
news:%23AErOxMeJHA.3864@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

What
version
of
Acronis?

I'm
not
sure
what
that
number
is,
but
the

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NT
disk
sig

is
a
32-bit
hex
dword
(8
hex
digits
long).
If
you
want
to,
you
could
email
me
a
screenshot
of
what
you
are
looking
at.
My
address
is
listed
here—
<http://home.earthlink.net/~bblanton2/mail/>

Do
not
change
the
boot
sector
signature.
AA55h
is
correct.

Another
way
to

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wipe
the
disk
signature
is
to
boot
with
a
Windows
98
startup
disk
and
issue
an
fdisk
/mbr
at
the
command
prompt.
98
is
unaware
of
the
NT
disk
sig,
and
will
overwrite
it.
You
can
download
that
at
<http://www.bootdisk.com/>

"barrowhill"
<barrowhill@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
wrote
in
message
<news:DBC69F43-D1E8-4651-BCF6-B1F112E3A279@xxx>

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Bill,

Checked
BIOS;
limited
options.

If
I
set
BIOS
to
SATA
native
mode
enabled,
recovery
console
won't
run
because
as
far
as
it
is
concerned
there
is
no
disc
installed.

If
I
set
BIOS
to
SATA
native
mode
disabled,
recovery
console
runs.

The
commands,
'diskpart'
and
'bootcfg'

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show
nothing
untoward.
I
ran
'fixmbr'
and
'fixboot'
successfully.

Despite
all
this
this
disc
refuses
to
boot;
blinking
cursor
on
top
left
of
black
screen

As
regards
your
other
suggestion
re
NT
disk
signature
number,
I
do
not
see
"Windows
NT
serial
number"
under
Advanced>Edit
when
drive
selected.

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I
have
entries
for.....

1)
Serial
Number:
which
is
0A996h-05DEh-0FE8h-0F722h

2)
Boot
Sector
signature
(0AA55h):
which
is
0AA55h

The
serial
number
can't
be
changed
as
appears
auto
detected.

The
boot
sector
can.
Is
this
the
"signature"

you
refer
to
and
suggest
set
to
00000h
???

"Bill
Blanton"

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message

news:531F2EF4-A497-47A1-94EB-1B5A

Bill,

Thanks
for
response.
I've
reconnected
Imaged
drive
as
USB
drive
and
opened
Acronis
Disc
Director.
This
drive
is
shown
as
a
primary
and
active
partition

I'm
certain
that
when
system
wouldn't
boot
with
drive
installed,
I
used
the
recovery
console
and
ran
fixmbr
and

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fixboot.
However,
you
raised
the
question
so
I'll
check
this
again

"Bill
Blanton"
wrote:

Assuming
you
did
copy
the
partition
and
did
not
clone
the
disk,
there
may
not
be
any
boot
code
in
the
MBR.
(some
programs
will
automatically
put
it
in,
some
won't).

You'll
also

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need
to
set
the
partition
active.
This
is
never
done
automatically.

"barrowhill"
<barrowhill@xxxxxxxxxxxxx>
wrote
in
message
<news:4C6D30DE-09CA-4E>

Bob,

Thanks
for
response.....

1)
I'm
assuming
Acronis
Disc
Director
clones
the
disk.
Normally
when
I
use
with
PATA
drives,
I
reformat
partition
I
wish
to
copy

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to
then
copy
required
partion
from
drive
in
question.
I
ensure
all
OK
by
swapping
over
drives.
Acronis
checks
partions,
assigns
drive
letters,
synchronises
and
restarts.
No
problems.

2)
Interesting.....I
assume
your
testing
was
done
on
a
desktop.
I'm
trying
to
clone
from
laptop
(HP-NC6400)
to
USB
hard
drive
-

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It works as every stage of operation shown as successful. Your comment ".....that something had changed, that the new disk was not the same as the old one. So, the default was to not assign it" maybe is important. I'll have a look at what BIOS options are available but RAID

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won't
be
one
of
them.

"Bob
Harris"
wrote:

Two
thoughts:

1)
When
you
say
"make
an
image",
do
you
mean
clone
the
whole
disk,
including
the
boot
sector,
or
make
an
image
file
(or
file
set).
To
be
bootable,
you
need
to
a
clone,
not

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just
make
an
image.

2)
I
just
replaced
my
SATA
drives
using
Acronis
True
Image,
which
is
related
to
Disk
Director.
The
cloning
was
successful,
but
my
BIOS
could
not
see
the
new
disk,
even
though
the
same
PC
had
just
seen
it
to
do
the
cloning!
Of
course,
XP

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would
not
boot.

The
extra
wrinkle
was
that
my
SATA
disk
controller
on
the
motherboard
is
also
a
RAID
controller.
I
went
into
the
RAID
setup
and
discovered
that
the
new
disk
was
found,
but
not
assigned
to
any
RAID
array.
(Don't
ask
why
a
single
disk
needs
to
be

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in
an
array;
my
motherboard
simply
demands
it.)
It
became
apparent
that
the
RAID
controller
knew
that
something
had
changed,
that
the
new
disk
was
not
the
same
as
the
old
one.
So,
the
default
was
to
not
assign
it.

The
solution
for
me
was
to
define
(really
re-define
if

Re: Boot Problem

you
ask
me)
that
this
disk
was
RAID
array
#1.

One
I
did
that
and
rebooted
the
BIOS
saw
the
disk,
XP
booted,
and
all
was
well.

"barrowhill"
<barrowhill@...>
wrote
in
message
news:5DF21...

I
have
HP
laptop
running
XP
with
SATA
Drive
I've
used
Acronis
Disc
Dire

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(AD
regu
mak
an
imag
onto
anot
SAT
drive
How
I
cann
boot
from
the
imag
drive
whe
I
insta
it;
I
just
get
blin
curs
top
left
on
blac
scre
?

This
is
first
time
used
ADD
on
SAT
drive
Use
on
PAT
drive
with
prob

The
onlin

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drive
is
runn
SAT
nativ
mod
-
I
had
to
to
disal
this
whe
insta
XP
as
it
insis
there
was
no
drive
to
insta
itself
on
!
Once
insta
I
rena
(afte
follo
proc
to
ensu
corre
drive
were
insta
Irres
of
whe
runn
nativ
mod
or
not,
just
get

Re: Boot Problem

blind
curs
Any
help
appr