

Re: NTFS and FAT32 on same drive?

Source:

http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.help_and_support/2004-03/8480.html

From: Bruce Chambers (*bchambers_at_nospamcableone.net*)

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Greetings --

Yes, certainly.

WinXP can read FAT12 (the file system used on 3.5" diskettes), FAT16, FAT32, CDFS (the file system used on most CDs), and NTFS with equal facility. Further, the file system on any one disk/partition or diskette has absolutely no affect upon the operating system's ability to read other compatible file systems on other disks/partitions.

The simplest way I've found to dual boot between Win9x and WinXP would be to partition your drive(s) roughly as follows:

C: Primary FAT32 Win9x/Legacy Apps
D: Extended NTFS WinXP/Modern Apps

Adjust the partition sizes according to your actual hard drive(s) size and the amount of space you'd like to allocate to each OS and its applications.

Create the partitions using Win9x's FDISK so you can enable large disk support (FAT32). (No need for 3rd party partitioning utilities/boot managers and their frequent complications.)

Install Win9x first, being sure to select "C:\Windows" (or D:\Windows, if you prefer) when asked for the default Windows directory. When you subsequently install WinXP, be sure to specify "D:\Winnt" (or "D:\Windows," "C:\Winnt" as referred/applicable) when asked for the default Windows directory, to place it in the other partition. The WinXP installation routine will automatically set up a Multi-boot menu for you. The default settings for this menu can be readily edited from within WinXP. NOTE: If you elect to place Win98 on the "D:" drive, you'll have to leave the "C:" drive as FAT32.

This method can be adapted to using 2 physical hard drives by placing the boot partition (C:, which still must be FAT32) and either of the operating systems on the Primary Master hard drive, and the

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second operating system on the second hard drive.

It is also possible to have a 3rd partition for shared applications, but it would be necessary for such a partition to be formatted in the common file format (FAT32). The applications would also have to be installed into each OS (to ensure proper system file placement and registry updates), one at a time, but the bulk of the program files could be located on this common partition. I do not, however, actually recommend doing this as, if you were to uninstall such an application from one OS, you may not be able to gracefully uninstall it from the second OS, having already deleted crucial installation data during the first uninstall action.

Just about everything you need to know (URLs may wrap):

<http://support.microsoft.com/support/kb/articles/Q217/2/10.ASP>

<http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/pro/using/howto/gettingstarted/multiboot.asp>

Bruce Chambers

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Help us help you:

<http://dts-l.org/goodpost.htm>

<http://www.catb.org/~esr/faq/smart-questions.html>

You can have peace. Or you can have freedom. Don't ever count on having both at once. -- RAH

"Wayne King" <Spanking@themonkey.com> wrote in message
news:c3joei\$ctj\$1@newsg4.svr.pol.co.uk...

> Can I create a NTFS partition and a FAT32 partition on the same
> hard-drive?

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> I want to have XP and my old windows 98 on one drive as I have a one
> or two
> hardware that I can't get the drivers for XP.

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