

Re: Partition size

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- *From:* Geminate <Geminate@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Tue, 23 May 2006 10:40:02 -0700
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Your comments are very insightful. Yes, you are one of the more focused MVP's. One usually buys something that they are going to use; personally I am only aware of two instances where someone bought a computer and then never used it – bought it just to have it. Why!?! Who knows? I can't include such users are real users or even average users, so it is difficult to draw any dependable lines to know where one begins and the other ends. I purchase a hammer – I hit nails with it, I am a user. I purchase a hammer – I throw it in a toolbox, I am not a user, but I own a hammer.

In a era of faster and faster hardware and looser and downright sloppy coding, program bloat is a major contributor to requiring larger/faster hard drives and I see no end in sight. What space will Vista ultimately require, Office Vista, and a bevy of replacement/upgrade programs? 64 bit, 128 bit and on and on, everything gets faster, larger and more complex. Hard drives will, perhaps soon, be replaced by better technologies. In the future space may never be an issue as storage becomes self-expanding, perhaps without limit. We can dream.

Today though, we deal with the mechanical and physically limiting platters, heads and motors in an all too real scenario where storage space is precious and we seem to be running out of it more and more quickly. At least the offset is that upgrading is less expensive than yesterday, for bigger, better and more dependable technology. (plug: Western Digital)

Where to include or exclude a user, in qualifying them as being legitimate or illegitimate? Why include Windows 9x users, why not include DOS users? The newsgroup is Windows XP, so should everything else be invalid? I don't consider that the treatment of 'all users' or 'any users' as equal can really be applied in the real world. There must be segregation and classification – I am a real user, that guy just checking his email isn't. Someone playing chopsticks on the piano isn't a piano player or a musician, formally or informally trained – they are just goofing off at the piano.

So for the (gag) user that is considering partition size, get yourself a copy of Partition Magic and partition away. I would just make a single partition and do away with the E: drive.

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"Shenan Stanley" wrote:

Geminate wrote:

Well I will concede that I expect most real users to have a full install of Microsoft Office Professional, Adobe Photoshop and other Adobe programs, as well as the usual battery of software that makes your DVD drives usable and worth having, among other key pieces of software that takes some healthy hard drive space. Of course it is the user data generated by these programs that takes even more healthy amounts of hard drive space. I wouldn't say that games steal all the space since most games have a short usable life on a PC and are eventually removed. I like a MVP that has opinions – right or wrong and sticks to them, without trying to be all nice and agreeable like most MVPs.

While a lot of "real users" will have such applications.. being a "real user" doesn't mean you have Adobe Photoshop or other Adobe Programs. I know many "real users" who avoid everything "Adobe" like the plague and use substitute freeware or less expensive (less meaty but with all the taste) applications. Yes – they take up a lot of space – but I have administered PCs with 100+ applications installed upon them (including all Adobe products, all Microsoft Office products, several AutoDesk products and a lot more) in a lab environment where there are 1000's of users. The space of the stuff on the actual machine takes up is between 6 and 8GB – all features installed.

Games can take up gigabytes of space quickly – consider the games like EverQuest and World of Warcraft, etc. Those games do not get removed quickly – I know poor souls who have been playing EQ since it was released. Some are playing both EQ and WoW right now. Large amounts of unrecovered space – screenshots after screenshot for web pages.

I was the first in this thread to suggest they buy a larger drive – because once a user asks about space – you KNOW they are running out. Nip it in the bud. But there are so many who do not use the space because they are people whose jobs/lives never exposed them to computers. People who do not spend their lives on computers – do not have office jobs, do not go to college and were never exposed to computers in any schooling would do just fine with their 20GB for a long time – if not life. At least their personal computers would. Even most office workers who use computers all day for their excel spreadsheets and word documents, business emails and such – may never use 20GB of total space at home.

We don't disagree on what computer people would use in space – I have more than three terabytes at home and have had at least one terabyte since 2002

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(late 2002.) I used friends and family to get in on lots of rebate deals. *grin* However – I deal with clients daily that are running fine – and may continue running fine – with their 8GB Windows 9x system. Should they upgrade? I would say *yes* if it was me – it's not – it's them. They have no need. When they start getting close – yeah – they will get some ridiculous amount of space on some computer that will be woefully underutilized in their household.

In this case – the OP would be better off buying more hard drive space – and the reality is – soon they will get to a point where they should consider getting a whole new computer instead – because they have shown interest. It is not the case for everyone.

There are likely more users out there that will never use the space on their hard disk drives than there are that will. More than likely – almost a certainty – since many computer users use their work computers more than home and any system administrator worth the money they get paid would have them saving on a central server that gets backed up periodically. They may exceed (together with their co-workers) that amount of space at some point – but the space on their computers sit idle.

I think the problem here is you are speaking of "real users" and I am speaking of "all users". Technically – your definition of "real" in this case would be "someone who fully utilizes all aspects of the computer – graphics, sound, gaming, office applications, etc.." – while there are many more users who will never fit your definition of "real" – such as the OP. To me – "real users" are "all users" – just because they do not utilize the tool to its full potential – doesn't mean they shouldn't use the tool.

The OP is just asking how to squeeze more space out of their 20–30GB hard drive. I cannot remember the last time a third-tier vendor offered less than 40GB hard drives – and now it is 80GB and 160GB. That means it has been several years (the years 2000 to 2002 come to mind) since they purchased this system. Four to six years and they have just started using enough where they have to worry about rearranging space. Not to mention – well – let me quote them:

"My drive is set up with 23.84 GB on C and 4.09 GB on E. Can I resize the partitions to create more space in E? C is FAT 32 with 23.84 GB, of which 21.76 GB is free space (91%)."

They have 27.93GB of space. Their C drive is 23.84GB of that and 91% of it is FREE! I guess that weirdo E drive (assuming one hard disk drive here) is getting full – not surprising at 4.09GB in size – and they want to take some of their 91% free space (21.76 GB free out of 23.84GB) and throw it at the 4.09GB drive. Truthfully – they do not need more space – they might (in our eyes) be better off getting a new computer at the prices those are at – but in their situation – what they truly need is just re-arrangement of the space they haven't even used in all these years. They will likely never use what they have or they would have less than 90+% free on a 30GB hard drive right now – after all this time. Throwing money at something is not always

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the right solution – although it may be the fastest and less stressful.

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Shenan Stanley

MS-MVP

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