

# How to recover system after replacing motherboard?

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I'm sure this question has been asked before. My wife's computer died after a nearby lightning strike. The motherboard is toast, but the hard disk is ok. I have replaced the motherboard with one that fit in the case but is NOT the same as the old one (but somewhat similar in that it still uses an AMD cpu and a VIA chip set, though not the same ones as the original).

I have NOT yet tried to boot the system, though I have entered the bios and seen that the hard disk is detected as before with the old MB. I've been advised that I should

1: just let it boot and probably blue screen. Then re-install XP home. Since I don't have the original CD (Compaq/HP) and even if I did it wouldn't work since the original was a manufacturer specific OEM version, I would need to get a new generic OEM copy (or pay double for a boxed retail copy). I would then be able to do a "new install"/"repair" type operation and recover all my files and settings.

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2: DON'T try the above, install fresh to a NEW hard disk and then (somehow) copy my data files, programs, and settings from the old disk (as a slave) to the new.

3: (Hybrid) Do 2, copy all user data and programs (maybe the entire disk under a new folder on the new drive, then restrap the drives to swap them around, then try 1. I now have a back up of the original drive on the new drive just in case.

Opinion on this seems to be split on various forums. What is the recommended procedure here?

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