

Re: Clean reinstall getting dirtier each attempt?

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http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.help_and_support/2007-01/msg01720.htm

- *From:* Jeff Mc <JeffMc@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Fri, 12 Jan 2007 19:07:00 -0800
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Nepatsfan, answers to your questions addressed in the copied body of your post.

"Nepatsfan" wrote:

Jeff,

I sure hope you have your important files backed up. Do that before you try anything else.

I don't know where to start so let's get some things explained so we've got a frame of reference to work with.

First off, forget about the small partitions. The 39MB partition probably contained diagnostic programs that the manufacturer put there so they'd be available when you first booted your computer. If your computer is a Dell, then you can change probably in the previous sentence to definitely. These same diagnostic programs are available on one of the CD's that Dell ships with their systems. Look for a Resources CD if you've got a Dell. They'll be on there. For now, don't worry about this.

Yes, it is a Dell (Dimension 8250). Yes I have a resources CD, for now I won't worry about this.

The 8MB of unallocated space is put there by Windows in case someone wanted to convert their Basic disk to a Dynamic disk. You'll be just fine with your Basic disk.

Ignoring this too, for now.

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Let's move on to your Boot.ini file. Originally your hard drive had a small first partition, 39MB, and a large second partition, your C drive. That would account for the second entry under operating systems pointing to partition 2 since your C drive was the second partition. That's the old installation. Your original Boot.ini file looked like this.

```
[boot loader]
timeout=30
default=multi(0)disk(0)rdisk(0)partition(2)\WINDOWS
[operating systems]
multi(0)disk(0)rdisk(0)partition(2)\WINDOWS="Microsoft
Windows XP Home Edition" /fastdetect=OptIn
```

I'd be willing to bet that you have a file named boot.bak that when opened with notepad will look very similar to the above.

Now here's where things got out of whack. When you deleted the 39 MB partition, leaving it as unallocated space, your C drive became the first partition on your hard drive. When you reinstalled XP without formatting the partition you ended up installing it right back into the Windows folder on your C drive, which was now partition 1. That's where you got this line added to your boot.ini file.

```
multi(0)disk(0)rdisk(0)partition(1)\WINDOWS="Microsoft
Windows XP Home Edition" /fastdetect /NoExecute=OptIn
```

And since it was the latest installation it became the default operating system. You really don't have two installations of XP since both entries point to a Windows folder. Look on your C drive. Are there any large folders with names similar to Windows or just the one Windows folder? I'm betting there's just the one Windows folder.

Check! Just the one Windows folder.

The boot.ini issue can be resolved by editing out the reference to partition 2. Here's what your boot.ini file should look like.

```
[boot loader]
timeout=30
default=multi(0)disk(0)rdisk(0)partition(1)\WINDOWS
[operating systems]
multi(0)disk(0)rdisk(0)partition(1)\WINDOWS="Microsoft
Windows XP Home Edition" /fastdetect /NoExecute=OptIn
```

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You can edit the boot.ini file by following the procedure outlined in this article.

How to edit the Boot.ini file in Windows XP
<http://support.microsoft.com/kb/q289022/>

Understand this and believe i can edit the Boot.ini as directed. Just didn't think that was fixing the problem as much as directing startup to ignore it.

You say that the new installation is working OK. Can you run all the installed programs on your computer? How about your user account? Can you access all your old files?

New installation seems to work ok, I've had a few problems downloading and reinstalling XP Service Pack 2 (as I've needed to remove it whenever i've gone back to using the XP reinstallation disk) also had some problems with Norton Phishing Filter not DLing. Not sure what the question is about my User Account, if I logoff this is still the only account available to log back in to and it is the Admin acct. I CAN access my old files, including files for programs i thought would have been deleted/overwritten by the clean install. Examples include Teamspeak and WinRAR...Although I haven't reloaded nor reinstalled either program I can still access both through my Program Files.

Finally, look in the Documents and Settings folder on your C drive. What folders does it contain? Are there duplicates? FYI, to see all the folders, make sure you go to Control Panel -> Folder Options and click on the View tab. On the View page, select "Show hidden files and folders" and uncheck "Hide protected operating system files". Click OK.

In the Documents and Settings folder I have many duplicate an/or additional folders. 3 Administrator variants, 2 All Users variants, 2 Hidden Default User variants, 3 Jeffrey variants, 2 Hidden LocalService variants, and 2 Hidden NetworkService variants.

Post back with answers to the above questions. Hopefully, editing your boot.ini file will resolve this issue.

Good luck

Nepatsfan

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Thanks for the help so far. I'll see about editing the boot.ini while waiting for reply to this.

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