

Re: Crash and Invalid Boot Diskette

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http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.help_and_support/2007-04/msg02989.htm

- *From:* Houndhome1 <Houndhome1@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Sun, 29 Apr 2007 18:06:01 -0700
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I have a Dell and it's about 8 yrs old. the setup key is supposed it be f8. I've tried f8, f1, f2, and f3. Nothing. I will try again in the morning and make note of the beeps. The computer does not seem to be recognizing anything. When I put in the boot disk, the A drive doesn't light up or make noise.

I just ordered a new computer system. Can I take this hard drive and make it a slave to the new one and retrieve my data?

I really appreciate the help.

Jen

"To get more out of life, give more of yourself"

"Poprivet" wrote:

Houndhome1 wrote:

Can't get to the BIOS. Can't get to anything. Just the Invalid Disk screen

You need to try harder to get to your CMOS BIOS or System Settings, whatever they might have been called on your computer.

You DO need to check the BIOS; it could be as simple as a bad battery problem.

At some point, during the initial POST when you first turn the computer on, there should be a flash on the screen telling you how to access your BIOS settings. Various keys are used to access the BIOS depending on who made it, so you need to find that information in the docs that came with the computer if you don't know what it is. F1, F2, DEL, Esc are a few of them; there are several more of them.

If you're getting to the point where it can tell you there is not a valid disk attached, then you can get into the BIOS. This is where the drive

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assignments are made. I think you –must– figure out how to do that.

When you start the computer, does it beep at all from the internal speaker? If so, how many beeps? Describe them exactly. The place to start is the BIOS settings, period, since boot disks aren't working.

Do you even know if you can boot from a CD? Setting the CD to be bootable is also done in the BIOS settings.

If you cannot get to the BIOS, your whole machine may be kaput as in anything from a PSU to a mother board failure to a drive failure and a lot of things in between, even something as simple as a CMOS battery failure.

Once you get the BIOS access sorted out, then the rest can be attacked logically. But if you're right, and I'm not so sure you are, inability to get to the BIOS settings is a catastrophic failure.

HTH
Pop`

"Houndhome1" wrote:

My PC crashed and I can not get to any set up screen. The only screen I can get to tells me to insert a boot diskette into drive A. I created new boot disks from the MS site: XP Home Edition, service pack 2. I did this on my laptop. When I go to use the boot disks, I get the error message "Invalid Boot Diskette. Insert BOOT diskette in A". I know the windows version and service pack are correct. I even tried as couple of other types of boot disks. Same message. HELP!!!!!! How do I get my computer to boot?????????

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Try to access the BIOS and make sure the First Option for Boot up is the CD-ROM then the HDD and see if that will enable the Boot up from the CD and perform the Recovery Procedure. If not then I will doubt the Hard Drive is Dead or there is loose cable in the Case somewhere from either the MOBO or the HDD side, check your Cables connections and clear the Dust out of the Case.
HTH.
nass