

Re: Corrupted NTFS needs reformat – how to preserve windows installation

Source:

http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.help_and_support/2007-08/msg01927.htm

- *From:* "Martin T." <bilbothebagginsbab5@xxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Wed, 22 Aug 2007 14:18:28 -0700
-

On Aug 22, 10:23 pm, John John <audetw...@xxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

Martin T. wrote:

On Aug 22, 7:41 pm, John John <audetw...@xxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

Martin T. wrote:

John John wrote:

Martin T. wrote:

(snipped)

Martin T.
wrote:

Hello.

I can access
the broken
partition
from Linux

alright.

I have not
tried fixboot
yet, ...
Will fixboot
mess up the
Grub Linux
boot loader
(I think that
resides
in the MBR,
so I'd figure
not) ??

Your
description
sounds
good:
So I would:
1.) Do a
recursive
copy
backup of
NTFS-C: to
my external
Harddisk
2.)
Reformat
NTFS-C:
so that it
gets a clean
filesystem
3.) Do a
recursive
copy back
from my
external
drive to
NTFS-C:
4.) Run the
recovery
console and
do a
'fixboot'

Is this OK?

It's just one
more copy,
but I do not
have
another disk
so that will
have to do.

Thanks!

To dislodge the GRUB
loader you would use the
fixmbr command, if
fixboot damages GRUB
then you will have to repair
it, shouldn't be too
big a problem to fix if the
disk is otherwise sound,
search the net
and you will quickly find
how to do that. I don't know
how your disks
are arranged and where
GRUB is being started, that
is for you to
determine.

As for the trying to salvage
the Windows installation
that is how I
would try if nothing else
works, which seems to be
where you're at
now. Strange that Linux can
read the files on the disk but
that
Windows cannot see them
or even chkdsk the drive, go
figure! But it
seems that I have read posts
with similar happenings

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before.

I want to **emphasize** that there is no guarantee that this will work! There is no saying what kind of corruption the disk is having and if all the files are recoverable, maybe there are certain areas or sectors of the disk where system files reside that are corrupt beyond repair or recovery. After you do this copy over job you may still need to to a repair install. Before you try to copy files back to the disk it would be a good idea to run a disk diagnostic utility from the hard drive manufacturer to make sure that the disk is sound.

Also, I don't have extensive experience with Linux and I am not sure that you will be able to copy files to an NTFS disk without the Paragon driver or without another similar driver. If you cannot copy to NTFS you may be able to copy to FAT32 and convert the file system after the mess is fixed, if it is fixable to start with!

Good luck,

John

Thanks! You've been very helpful.

I'm aware that the data on the C: windows partition might be partially unaccessible, and I'll maybe end up doing a reinstall anyway. Grub shouldn't be too much of a problem I guess.

FYI: I use the ntfs-3g driver under linux for write access. It will have to be seen if I succeed in copying really everything on the C: drive.

Thanks again!

You're welcome. Keep us posted, it would be interesting and informative to see how well (or not) things turn out. As for copying the files back and forth to NTFS there is also the matter of NTFS permissions which may or may not be affected, once again it depends on the level of corruption on the disk and the file system of the intermediate location to where you copy the files to. An In-Place upgrade (repair install) should reapply the default NTFS permissions, or they can be reapplied using Secedit and the proper security.inf file. Nothing to worry about for the time being but something that you might need to do... depending on how things turn out.

John

Re: Corrupted NTFS needs reformat – how to preserve windows installation

Weeeeell.

I really messed up. Since I haven't got my external drive around atm I thought I'd give it a try and run run fixboot anyway to see what it does.

And what it bloody did was corrupt (or delete or whatever) the PARTITION TABLE of my harddisk.

When I ran "fixboot C:" it put out some messages and then appeared to change the drive type of the partition to FAT (!). Although this drive has never seen a fat part.

Before running fixboot I had a disk with 100GB of accessible data and a running linux partition on. (there were 3 part. on disk, C: NTFS, D: NTFS and one ext3 linux partition)

NOW, there's nothing. *cry*

When I boot from my PartitinMagic floppy I get a big fat yellow blob for my harddisk saying "partition table corrupted".

When I boot from my linux CD and run fdisk, I get: Device contains neither a valid DOS partition table, nor SUN, SGI or OSF disklabel ...

So kids, don't be as silly as me and try this at home with a complete physical backup of all data.

Well ... maybe I can get my data back somehow ... should still be on there, shouldnt it ... Bah!

I'll keep you posted, this promises to get really thrilling.

Oh my, I thought you were doing this from two separate and different hard disks! Definitely not something to do to try to recover data from a corrupt partition from another operating system on the same disk, or without backing up data that is stored on other partitions on the same disk! If the utilities that you used to prepare the disk cannot recover the partition table, or unless you had backed up the MBR, you may have to try recovery software.

John

On Aug 22, 9:54 pm, "Martin T." <bilbothebagginsb...@xxxxxxxxxxx>

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cheers,
Martin

(How I hate google groups, lets see how many times this post ends up.)

OK. Next update:

Found this utility TestDisk (<http://www.cgsecurity.org/>)

It's freeware and so I managed to copy it onto a boot floppy and try my best. After manually telling it to use 255 cylinders instead of 240 (it actually told me to try so) it found all partitions and fixed up the part.table.

After A Reboot the MBR was still messed up so I booted back into TestDisk and let it write the MBR anew. Now I get to boot from the primary partition once more. (Not that windows starts, but well.)

All that remains now is to get grub back on to see if Linux also starts.

Phew. Seems I was half lucky. (Though I'd say I've not halfway deserved it trying these stunts w/o backup.)

cheers,
Martin

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