

Re: Drive letter issues in restore

Source:

http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.help_and_support/2007-12/msg02811.htm

- *From:* Whoopedoo
 - *Date:* Mon, 31 Dec 2007 13:43:47 -0500
-

JS

This is absolutely insane. I down loaded the Super Fdisk program (Partition Manager 1.62 Demo), installed it and then used the tool to make a bootable CD. The process went normally and the program said "Bootable CD done". Only one problem – there are no files on the CD and my computer will not boot to It. I tried it normally (my CD is the second boot option) and with my CD as the primary boot drive. Nothing. Not sure why there is nothing on the CD except for the CD Label it asks for.

OK – let me ask you a question. Since I can boot my computer with both hard drives installed and since I can see the Z: drive in the Partition Manger Program – do I really need to find a way to Boot from a CD in order to access the program? I looked at the drive in the program and there is no "remove or undo" active partition option. Only an option to set it as active, which is grayed out since it is already shows as active.

Let me mention something here I forgot about. I have Partition Magic 8.0 on my computer and it shows the same thing with both drives as the other program. The only difference between the two is that the Super Fdisk program shows my disk #1 status as "System" for C: and "None" for D: and "Active" for disk#2 Z:. PM 8.0 shows the same thing except that it shows the status as "Active" for disk#1 – C: .

Bottom line ---- is there any reason we can just delete the single partition on dick#2 – Z:., make a new partition and then format disk#2 from within either Super Fdisk or Partition magic ????

Gary

On Mon, 31 Dec 2007 11:20:18 -0500, "JS" <@> wrote:

You could try Super Fdisk (I have not had the need to try this tool) to make a bootable CD.

http://www.majorgeeks.com/Super_Fdisk_d4985.html

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Next remove your drive that has Windows installed on it.

Now only connect the drive that was Z: to your PC.

Use the CD to boot to Super Fdisk and see what/if there are options to:

- 1) Remove or undo 'Active' partition. If so you can skip the other steps.
- 2) Delete the existing partition,
- 3) Create a new partition and format without making the partition and Active or System partition.

Finally shutdown the PC and connect both drives.

JS

<Whoopedoo> wrote in message
news:4hign3ltsvpk77jemrdb60l44p28oedug@xxxxxxxxxx

JS

Now, this is getting confusing to me. I have removed all data from the Z: disk and moved it to an external USB drive I have. I did not format the Z: drive just moved all the data off. The SVI and recycle info is still on the Z: drive. I have physically unhooked the drive from the system. The computer boots fine with the single drive labeled C: & D:.

I have gone to the Disk Management tab and looked at the drive. It shows a single disk drive (Disk 0) partitioned as a primary partition C: and an extended partition – logical drive D:. The C: partition still shows Healthy (System) with no wording that it is active. I guess it has to be, since it's the only primary partition available. Also, it won't let me right click and mark it as "Active".

Right now everything seems to be looking good and my System Restore shows monitoring of C & D.

So I guess my question is – What do I need to do to the hard disk that contains the Z: drive so that it can put it back in the system as a backup storage disk and it won't be marked as "Active" and will show up properly in the System Restore section.

Your help is appreciated.

Gary

On Sun, 30 Dec 2007 17:20:27 -0500, Whoopedoo wrote:

OK – I went to the computer management / disk management tab to look

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at the graphical view of the two drives. When I right click on either the primary partition disk 0 (which is C:) or the primary partition (which is the only partition) on disk 1 (which is Z:) the option to "Mark the partition as active" on both drives is grayed out and not available.

Man this is getting a little crazy.

Thanks,

Gary

On Sun, 30 Dec 2007 15:19:54 -0500, "JS" <@> wrote:

The C: drive should be the 'Active' partition, this is most likely the cause of your problem.

Please read the following:

To mark a partition as active

<http://www.microsoft.com/resources/documentation/windows/xp/all/proddocs/en-us/>

Changing Active Partition Can Make Your System Unbootable

<http://support.microsoft.com/kb/228004>

The computer does not start after you change the active partition

<http://support.microsoft.com/kb/315261/en-us>

JS

<Whoopedoo> wrote in message

<news:95rfn31jigti5tt01uf2lfa3tfs5ggq0i1@xxxxxxxxxxx>

JS

Disk Manager shows Drive

Z as follows:

Spare_Backup (Z:)

372.61 GB NTFS

Healthy (Active)

No mention of "System" anywhere in drive Z: info.

Drive C: shows:

Win_XP-SATA (C:)

Healthy (System)

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Your second point about System Restore only being of value for the partition that windows is installed on is noted. However, since windows is on C:, I would think that C: should show up in the System Restore settings dialog box, instead of Z: & D: only.

Thanks,

Gary

On Sun, 30 Dec 2007
13:07:56 -0500, "JS" <@>
wrote:

Open Disk
Manager
and see
what is
shows about
the Z drive,
it 'Should
Not'
be an
'Active/System'
partition.
Second
point:
System
Restore is
only of
value for
the partition
that
Windows
is installed
on, it has no
value for
other
drives/partitions.

From
the

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KB
article
titled:

Frequently
Asked
Questions
Regarding
System
Restore in
Windows
XP

<http://www.microsoft.com/technet/community/newsgroups/faqsrxp>.

JS

<whoopedoo@xxxxxxxxxxx>

wrote in
message

<news:tgfn31mcorhne4hen0a5tbc5c10nsi6nu@xxxxxxxxxxx>

Gents,

First
off
I'm
running
Win
XP
Pro
with
SP2.
I
recently
added
a
hard
drive
and
now
my
restore
system
doesn't
recognize
all
the
drives.

I
was

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originally
running
a
single
SATA
drive
which
was
partitioned
as
follows:
C:
the
primary
and
system
partition
D:
an
extended
partition
–
logical
drive
used
for
storage.

At
this
point
the
system
restore
was
working
fine
and
monitoring
both
the
C
&
D
drives.
I
recently
added
a
second
SATA

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drive.
I
cloned
my
original
drive
with
the
C:
&
D:
partitions
over
to
the
new
drive
(which
is
slightly
smaller
than
the
original
drive).
The
drive
boots
fine
with
no
problem
and
the
restore
system
is
monitoring
both
the
C:
&
D;
partitions.
And
it
recognizes
the
C:
as
the

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system
drive.

The
problem
starts
when

I
add
the
old
original
SATA
drive
to
the
system.

I
formatted
the
disk
and
renamed
it
with
the
drive
letter
Z:.

I
now
use
this
drive
for
a
backup
drive.

No
when
I
look
at
restore,
the
system
is
monitoring
the
Z:

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drive
which
it
calls
the
system
drive
and
D:.
I
have
no
idea
what
happened
to
C:.
If
I
disconnect
the
spare
drive
Z:.,
the
system
restore
seems
to
return
to
normal
–
C:&
D:.

The
system
check
points
and
restore
points
that
I
have
created
show
up,
OK.
However,

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the
amount
(%)
of
space
I
have
allocated
for
keeping
restore
information,
does
seem
to
indicate
that
the
restore
system
is
looking
at
the
Z:
drive.

I
looked
back
about
a
year
or
so
through
the
posts
and
found
some
information
concerning
one
of
the
M/S'
MVP
sites
that
had

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to
do
with
missing
drive
letters
in
the
restore
function.
There
are
two
options
mentioned.
The
first
has
to
do
with
accessing
the
System
Volume
Information
(SVI)
folder.
I
followed
the
instructions
and
went
to
the
SVI
on
drive
C:
and
renamed
the
"drivetable.txt"
file
to
old_drivetable.txt.
(By
the
way
it

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was
correctly
showing
the
C:,D:
&
Z:
drives
in
the
text
file).
I
backed
out,
reset
the
permissions
and
rebooted
the
system.
A
new
drivetable.txt
file
was
created.
It
also
showed
the
correct
drives
C:,D;
&
Z:.
However,
when
I
go
to
restore,
only
the
Z:
&
D:
drives
are
shown

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–
same
as
before.
While
I
was
looking,
I
also
checked
the
SVI
folder
on
the
D:
&
Z:
drive
just
to
make
sure
that
there
wasn't
a
duplicate
copy
of
the
drivetable.txt
file
there
–
there
wasn't.

OK
the
second
step
shown
at
the
site
was
to
"Reinstall
system

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restore
in
Win
XP".
This
option
removes
all
existing
restore
points
and
resets
the
system
restore
monitoring
options
to
the
default
(all
drives).
I
really
don't
have
a
huge
problem
removing
my
restore
points
in
order
to
fix
my
problem,
since
most
of
the
points
are
just
system
checkpoints
anyway.
I

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have
my
entire
system
backed
up
with
Acronis
on
my
backup
drive,
so
I
can
restore
from
their
if
I
absolutely
need
to.

I
really
don't
want
to
remove
all
the
existing
restore
points
to
fix
the
drive
monitoring
option
unless
I
have
to.
But
if
that
option
is
all

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I
have
available,
I'll
do
it.

Comments
and
suggestions
welcome.

Thank,

Gary