

# Re: Partition help

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*Source:*

[http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.help\\_and\\_support/2008-03/msg01183.htm](http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.help_and_support/2008-03/msg01183.htm)

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- *From:* "Anna" <[myname@xxxxxxxx](mailto:myname@xxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Sat, 15 Mar 2008 10:19:41 -0400
- 

"Anna" <[myname@xxxxxxxx](mailto:myname@xxxxxxxx)> wrote in message  
[news:Os#EWzRhIHA.4164@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:Os#EWzRhIHA.4164@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx):

Maggie:  
Let me give  
you another  
point-of-view  
to  
consider...

You are  
certainly  
correct in  
your  
objective to  
"backup the  
data to  
an  
external  
hard drive  
every day".  
Not only is  
this a  
worthwhile  
objective,  
it really  
should be  
your  
\*primary\*,  
if not  
exclusive  
objective.  
And  
when  
we use the

## Re: Partition help

term "data"  
in this  
context,  
consider  
that this  
"data"  
includes  
\*everything\*  
on your  
day-to-day  
working  
HDD, i.e.,  
your XP  
operating  
system  
(OS), all  
your  
programs/applications,  
as well as  
your  
user-created  
data.  
So that by a  
comprehensive  
backup of  
your data  
you can, in  
effect,  
have a  
copy of  
your HDD.  
A precise  
copy  
whereby  
should your  
day-to-day  
HDD  
fail  
or your  
system  
becomes  
unbootable  
because of a  
corrupt OS,  
you  
would  
have >> >>  
the  
wherewithal  
to restore  
your system

## Re: Partition help

to a  
bootable,  
functional  
state with  
a minimum  
of fuss.  
What better  
backup  
system can  
one have?

You can  
achieve this  
through the  
use of a  
disk-cloning  
(or  
disk-imaging  
program). A  
comprehensive  
backup  
program  
that you  
could use  
on a  
daily  
basis should  
you want.

There are a  
number of  
disk-to-disk  
cloning  
programs  
available.  
The  
program we  
greatly  
prefer as a  
disk-to-disk  
cloning  
program is  
the  
Casper 4  
program –  
see  
<http://www.fssdev.com>

It's  
extremely  
simple to

## Re: Partition help

use even for  
an  
inexperienced  
user,  
reasonably  
quick in  
operation,  
and quite  
effective.  
There's  
virtually no  
learning  
curve in  
undertaking  
the disk  
cloning  
process as  
one  
navigates  
through  
the few  
easy-to-understand  
screens with  
a final  
mouse-click  
on the  
button on  
>>> the  
screen  
which will  
trigger the  
disk-cloning  
process.  
After  
undertaking  
one  
or two  
disk-cloning  
operations it  
should take  
the user no  
more than  
20  
seconds or  
so to get to  
that point.

The  
significant  
advantage  
of the

## Re: Partition help

Casper 4.0  
disk cloning  
program  
compared  
with other  
disk cloning  
programs  
that we're  
familiar  
with is its  
ability  
to create  
\*incremental\*  
disk clones  
following  
the creation  
of the  
original  
(first) disk  
clone.  
Employing  
what Casper  
calls its  
"SmartClone"  
technology  
the program  
can create  
subsequent  
disk clones  
of the  
source  
HDD  
usually at a  
fraction of  
the time it  
takes to  
create a  
"full"  
disk  
clone. This  
results in a  
decided  
incentive  
for the user  
to  
undertake  
frequent  
complete  
backups of  
his or her  
system

Re: Partition help

knowing  
that they  
can  
create  
"incremental"  
disk clones  
in a  
relatively  
short period  
of  
time.  
Understand  
that >> >>  
this  
"incremental  
disk clone"  
is a  
\*complete\*  
clone  
(copy) of  
the "source"  
HDD.

So, for  
example, in  
your case  
where your  
interest  
would be in  
backing  
up  
your system  
on a daily  
basis,  
following  
the first  
time you  
clone  
the  
contents of  
your  
internal  
(boot) HDD  
to your  
USB  
external  
HDD  
(USBEHD),  
it would  
probably  
take no

## Re: Partition help

more than  
two or three  
minutes  
each day  
to  
thereafter  
perform the  
disk-cloning  
operation.

Again, bear  
in mind  
that

your  
USBED  
would  
contain the  
\*complete\*  
contents of  
your  
internal  
HDD.

While the  
USBED  
would not  
ordinarily  
be bootable  
in an XP  
OS, it  
would

be a simple  
matter to  
clone the  
contents of  
the

USBED  
back to a  
internal  
HDD

should a  
restoration  
of the  
system be  
necessary.

Again, what  
better  
backup  
system can  
one >>  
have?

The Casper

## Re: Partition help

4.0 program  
is also  
capable of  
scheduling  
the  
disk-cloning  
process on a  
daily,  
weekly, or  
other time  
period  
selected by  
the  
user  
so  
that should  
you prefer  
you could  
arrange for  
automatic  
backups at  
pre-determined  
times.

There's a  
trial version  
available  
(see above  
link)  
although it's  
somewhat  
crippled but  
it will give  
you a good  
idea as to  
how the  
program  
works.  
And I can  
provide  
further  
details  
about using  
the program  
should  
you  
be  
interested.

The  
downside to

Re: Partition help

the Casper 4 program as compared with the Acronis and most other disk-cloning programs is the cost of the program which comes to \$49.95 for the program + \$9.95 for the "Casper Startup Disk" (the program to create the bootable CD containing the Casper program). So it's more expensive than the others. But in our view, well worth the additional cost considering its overall effectiveness and the fact that one will be using the program many, many times over the weeks & months

## Re: Partition help

ahead.  
AFAIK, the  
program is  
available  
only  
through  
download  
from  
the  
developer.

Another  
possible  
downside to  
the Casper 4  
program  
(depending  
upon  
your  
interests) is  
that it's  
really not  
designed to  
create  
"generational"  
copies of  
your  
system.  
Some users  
like to  
maintain  
complete  
copies  
of  
their system  
at various  
points in  
time. To  
that end a  
disk-imaging  
program is  
more  
practical  
since to  
accomplish  
that  
objective  
using  
a  
disk-  
cloning

Re: Partition help

program  
such as  
Casper 4 the  
user would  
obviously  
need a  
fair  
number >>  
>> of  
HDDs to  
serve as the  
recipients of  
the clones at  
these  
various  
points in  
time.  
But based  
on our  
experience I  
would say  
that the vast  
number of  
users  
(and I  
would  
assume you  
are one of  
them) are  
basically  
interested in  
only  
maintaining  
a current  
up-to-date  
copy of  
their system  
and have  
little  
or  
no interest  
in  
maintaining  
"generational"  
copies  
of such. But  
that may be  
a  
consideration  
for you &  
others.

## Re: Partition help

Anyway, all of the above is predicated on the basis that you're seeking a reliable program to backup your \*entire\* day-to-day booting HDD, including the XP OS, all your programs & applications, and your user-created >> >> data, in short – everything that's on your "source" HDD. And you want an effective simple-to-use program to do this on a systematic routine basis and do so reasonably quickly. To that end we've found this Casper 4.0 program really fills the bill. So I would suggest you take a look at it.

Re: Partition help

I really  
don't think  
there is any  
significant  
need for  
you to  
multi-partition  
your HDD.  
There's no  
reason why  
you can't  
work  
effectively  
with a  
single-partitioned  
HDD that  
includes  
\*all\* the  
data  
on your >>  
>> HDD.  
And simply  
create the  
files &  
folders to  
organize  
your work  
on that  
single  
partition.  
This is  
especially  
so should  
you use a  
disk-to-disk  
cloning  
program  
such as the  
one I've  
suggested.  
In our  
experience  
this  
supposed  
additional  
security one  
gains from  
separating  
data  
through

## Re: Partition help

partitioning  
is more  
myth than  
reality in  
the  
day-to-day  
world of  
personal  
computing.  
While  
there's no  
terrible  
harm in  
multi-partitioning  
your 320  
GB  
HDD  
should you  
want to go  
that route, I  
honestly do  
not feel it's  
of  
any  
real value to  
the vast  
majority of  
PC users.

So, in  
summary,  
my advice  
would be to  
think more  
in terms of  
establishing  
&  
maintaining  
a  
comprehensive  
backup  
system  
along the  
lines I've  
suggested  
rather than  
multi-partitioning  
your HDD.  
Anna

Re: Partition help

"MrMachine" <invalid@xxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message  
[news:Cv6dnZ3ZvIgMn0banZ2dnUVZ\\_quhnZ2d@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:Cv6dnZ3ZvIgMn0banZ2dnUVZ_quhnZ2d@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

Anna,

I have a 1TB HDD and an external case for it. I want to clone the C and D partitions from the computer's 500GB HDD to the 1TB HDD. Of course, there will be some unused space on the external. Can I put additional folders/files onto that external drive without compromising the clone?

Thanks,  
LeRoy

"Anna" <myname@xxxxxxxx> wrote in message  
[news:uFTMD3jhIHA.1184@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:uFTMD3jhIHA.1184@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx):

LeRoy:  
Absolutely. No problem whatsoever. I'm assuming, of course, that these "folders/files" would be programs of one sort or another and/or user-created data and *\*not\** operating system files on your C: partition.

I assume you would understand that in the event you cloned back the contents of your USB? external HDD to your internal HDD for restoration/recovery purposes should that need arise, those add'l files/folders would become part of the cloned contents from your external HDD to the internal one. Should, for some reason, you not want such, it would be best to originally set up your external HDD with an add'l third partition to store those files/folders and then simply clone the partitions you desire back to the internal HDD.  
Anna

"MrMachine" <invalid@xxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message  
[news:D8CdnXtK\\_f9VIEbanZ2dnUVZ\\_sudnZ2d@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:D8CdnXtK_f9VIEbanZ2dnUVZ_sudnZ2d@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

## Re: Partition help

Thanks for your reply. The external enclosure for the 1TB SATA HDD is USB, and the additional files/folders would not be OS files. In the event of a HDD failure on the computer, would I be able to replace the 500GB SATA internal HDD with the 1TB, rather than cloning it back onto a new HDD I would install on the computer? I checked that the MB I'm using will support the 1TB SATA drive.

Additionally, what programs(s) would you suggest I use to accomplish the cloning and/or adding another partition to the 1TB external? I have Acronis TI 10 already, but you have recommended Casper for cloning.

I do appreciate your willingness to help! Thanks again.

LeRoy

LeRoy:

Yes, you could remove the HDD from its USB external enclosure and install it as an internal HDD in your PC replacing the current internal HDD. As such it will be bootable and completely functional. We do this all the time either to replace a defective internal HDD or to replace it with a larger HDD as I take it is your objective.

If the latter was your objective another way of accomplishing this (prior to installing the HDD in its external enclosure) would have been to simply install that HDD as a secondary internal HDD in your system and simply clone the contents of your primary HDD to the secondary one and then connect (and possibly jumper) the new HDD to serve as your primary HDD. Either way is fine.

Since you already have the Acronis True Image v 10 program I really see no reason to change assuming you're satisfied with that program. It should do the job you want without any problem (except under the circumstances I've detailed below). As you know we greatly prefer the Casper 4 program for day-in day-out disk-to-disk cloning operations in order to maintain comprehensive routine backups of one's system. But the ATI program may satisfy your needs.

But there's a problem with your ATI program with respect to your objective of multi-partitioning your USBEHD...

When using ATI as a routine \*disk-cloning\* program, it's an "all-or-nothing" proposition. What I mean is that let's assume you've multi-partitioned your USBEHD with three partitions, however you want to clone the contents of your two-partitioned internal HDD to the USBEHD. Should you use ATI's disk-cloning capability the resultant clone, i.e., the USBEHD will contain the same two partitions of the "source" HDD, your internal HDD (the disk space of each of the two partitions will be different because of the different disk capacity of the "destination" drive), but you would lose the third partition on your USBEHD. Remember, in this instance "a clone is a clone is a clone".

Re: Partition help

## Re: Partition help

Now you could get around this by using ATI's \*disk-imaging\* capability which allows one to create disk images of individual partitions. But these are disk images, i.e., files or archives that need a recovery/restore process. They are not clones of the source drive's contents, i.e, a copy of the source drive's contents so that the data is immediately accessible and bootable without a recovery-type process.

(BTW, I'm not sure if the latest version 11 of ATI now has the capability of cloning individual partitions. Perhaps someone coming across this thread might have information on that aspect.)

On the other hand, the Casper 4 program \*does\* have the happy capability of cloning individual partitions from one HDD to another HDD.

So assuming your were using that program and further assuming this doesn't pose any problem for you because there's no present data on that external HDD that you need (or that you couldn't copy (even temporarily) to your internal HDD...

You could simply start "fresh" as it were and using Disk Management (Start > right-click My Computer > Manage > Computer Management > Disk Management) and delete the current partition(s) on that USBEHD and then create whatever partitions you desire, presumably three as you've indicated. Then you could clone the two individual partitions on your source (internal) HDD to the two partitions of your USBEHD and leave the third partition free for any data you wish to write to that partition.

Other than that if you didn't want to disrupt (lose) the data presently on your USBEHD you would need a third-party partition management type of program such as Partition Magic to accomplish re:partitioning the drive without losing data.

Anna

.