

Re: bitten nails

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From: Sharon F (*sharonfDEL_at_ETEmvps.org*)

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On Tue, 25 Jan 2005 21:36:28 +1000, RoS wrote:

- > *Brand new computer arriving soon as big brother to 200MMX 3Gb win ME (who*
- > *he?) system. I've an offer I can't refuse on a full retail version of XP*
- > *Pro (considerably cheaper than XP Home) and have SP2 on a CD.*
- >
- > *Are there any particular hints, tips, etc on performing a first ever install*
- > *of XP pro? I'll do a check to make sure the BIOS is configured as per specs*
- > *but have only ever used an XP machine before rather than own one and find*
- > *that there's been quite a leap forward from previous OS's.*
- >
- > *Only myself and wife will be using it, for normal Office apps, lots of*
- > *graphics and some video and the odd game. I've a mind to do a complete back*
- > *up as soon as the OS and major apps are installed and appear to be running*
- > *OK. Or should I do this as soon as the OS is installed, so as always to*
- > *have a basic starting point to fall back to. I've never been quite clear*
- > *where the optimal backup point is!*
- >
- > *TIA Ros*

You could do both: an image right after XP + SP2 is installed. Another after all the apps are in and running. Since you have XP Pro, you could use NTBackup's ASR (Automatic System Restore) tool but it isn't as neat of a solution as a system image.

May want to utilize System Restore in between program installations. If one goes bad, you can uninstall the program and then use System Restore to revert back to just before that program was added. Many programs will automatically create this restore point but since some do not, manually creating a restore point is a way to insure that one exists.

As far as installing goes, read the setup documentation. There is a program on the XP CD that can check the system's readiness before starting setup. This program is a few years old now and outdated in some respects because of that but at the very least it can point out any glaring problems that need to be addressed before running XP setup.

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A handy XP install reference, complete with screenshots of dialogs that you'll run into during setup can be found here :
<http://www.michaelstevensstech.com/cleanxpinstall.html>

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Sharon F
MS-MVP ~ Windows Shell/User