

# Re: How do I solve this boot.ini problem with WinXP?

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*Source:*

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.newusers/2006-12/msg00226.html>

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- *From:* microman <[microman@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:microman@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Fri, 8 Dec 2006 17:17:00 -0800
- 

Brian,

Well-spotted. I actually typed those lines in manually and slipped up in not putting those spaces in.

But John and others, there's some good news – I've managed to get WinXP to boot to screen!!!!

The trouble all along appears to be that WinXP Setup happily functions in the native mode of the monitor (in my case, a DVI-to-DVI connection whose native resolution is 1600 X 1200), but as the Setup is exited and WinXP starts for real, the screen mode and resolution are automatically changed (to VGA mode at some unknown resolution). So, this is why my screen consistently went blank.

Earlier today, I managed to find a DVI-to-VGA cable for my monitor and then disconnected the all-digital connection and fitted that instead, going into the VGA connection on the monitor. It was then that the WinXP Desktop finally displayed.

I suspect that the reason that the experiment with my old Sony monitor didn't work was because I was trying the connection live and the output resolution from the card was probably too high for that Sony monitor.

Anyway, Microsoft seems to have tried to be a bit too clever with this latest incarnation of WinXP SP2 and have instead caused a big, big problem. Matrox, the manufacturer of my AGP video card have been saying that they've been unaware of any such problem but I'm now going to pursue it with them also. I need to work in the wholly digital mode of the monitor, so this looks like I'll need to install the Matrox driver in WinXP sooner rather than later.

The bootloader files seem to have been a bit of a red herring. However, I think that that change was worth making, regardless.

Looks like I'll have to re-run the WinXP Setup just one more time, as the booting has now missed some final configuration screens involving choices for user name, activation now or later, updates now or later, method of

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connecting to the Internet, etc.

Shortly, I'll let you know of further progress with this.

"Brian A" wrote:

No it's not unless it's a paste issue, there has to be a space before every switch or the boot will fail.

---

Brian A. Sesko { MS MVP\_Shell/User }  
Conflicts start where information lacks.  
<http://basconotw.mvps.org/>

Suggested posting do's/don'ts: <http://www.dts-l.org/goodpost.htm>  
How to ask a question: <http://support.microsoft.com/kb/555375>

"microman" <microman@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message  
<news:199811D9-347C-4D00-8302-8DF71A24833E@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

John,

Hope you see my earlier reply today.

This is the current state of my boot.ini file in Win2K's Root:

```
[boot loader]
timeout=30
default=multi(0)disk(0)rdisk(0)partition(1)\WINNT
[operating systems]
multi(0)disk(0)rdisk(0)partition(1)\WINNT="Microsoft Windows 2000
Professional"/fastdetect
multi(0)disk(0)rdisk(0)partition(2)\WINDOWS="Microsoft Windows XP
Home
Edition"/noexecute=optin/fastdetect
C:\CMDCONS\BOOTSECT.DAT="Microsoft Windows 2000 Recovery
Console"/cmdcons
```

Does that seem okay, to you? I'm no Windows software expert.

"John John" wrote:

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I can outright delete them on the Windows 2000 that I'm on now and Windows doesn't say a peep about it. In a Microsoft dual boot configuration you will only see one set of these files in the root directory of the active or System partition, in your case it's completely normal that they aren't in the root of the xp drive. You should be able to copy/rename/move/delete these files with Explorer.exe.

John

microman wrote:

John,

Thanks for those comments; they're reassuring.

So, if Win2K will let me, could I just rename the existing two files in Win2K's root (with, say, ntldr and ntdetectbak?). Then add the two new files from the XP CD?

After all the experimenting and re-running of the Setup I did yesterday, I've ended up right now with old-version ntldr/ntdetect files in Win2k, but none of those sorts of files at all in XP. Don't know how that happened. So, at present, I'm not even being given a choice to boot into XP. I'll have to re-run the XP Setup yet again, formatting and reinstalling it. But, before that, I'll try once more to somehow copy those two files to the Win2K root. If Windows won't let me change the existing files there, could they be changed instead by somehow using Command Prompt?

John" wrote:

microman wrote:

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"RajKohli"

wrote:

This  
is  
a  
little  
bit  
not  
understandable  
that  
why  
are  
you  
configuring  
2  
different  
"Primary  
Partitions"  
for  
dual  
boot  
between  
Win2K  
and  
Win  
XP.  
If  
you  
have  
already  
Win2K  
installed  
then  
you  
easily  
install  
WinXP  
on  
a  
Logical  
Drive.

It  
doesn't  
matter

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that  
you  
are  
creating  
2  
Primary  
Partitions  
on  
a  
Single  
HDD  
or  
Multiple  
Hard  
Disk  
only  
one  
can  
be  
set  
as  
a  
"Active  
Partition".  
You  
can  
use  
XOSL  
(Extended  
Operating  
System  
Loader)  
kind  
of  
program  
to  
boot  
between  
different  
Primary  
Partitions.  
But  
I  
don't  
think  
that  
it  
will  
be  
a  
good

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idea  
and  
it  
is  
a  
little  
bit  
complicated  
too.  
The  
main  
function  
of  
XOSL  
is  
to  
detect  
different  
OS  
from  
different  
partitions  
and  
make  
a  
partition  
active  
when  
you  
use  
a  
different  
Primary  
Partition  
to  
boot  
from.

I  
will  
suggest  
you  
that  
if  
you  
already  
have  
Win2K  
in  
working  
condition

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then  
run  
Windows  
XP  
setup  
through  
it  
and  
make  
a  
"Clean  
Install"  
on  
a  
different  
Logical  
Drive  
not  
Primary  
Partition.

Hope  
this  
is  
what  
you  
are  
missing,  
let  
us  
know!

"microman"  
wrote:

I've  
been  
trying  
to  
dual-boot  
WinXP  
Home  
with  
Win2K  
(having  
now  
used

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Win2K  
for  
several  
years),  
and  
yes  
it  
IS  
possible;  
even  
the  
readme  
file  
on  
the  
WinXP  
CD  
says  
you  
can,  
provided  
the  
two  
OSs  
are  
in  
separate  
primary  
partitions  
or  
you're  
not  
trying  
to  
update  
one  
with  
the  
other.

Trouble  
is  
that  
I  
boot  
to  
the  
WinXP  
CD  
and  
go

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through  
the  
WinXP  
Setup,  
it  
completes,  
the  
PC  
automatically  
reboots  
and  
the  
splashscreen  
of  
WinXP  
shows  
and  
WinXP  
starts  
to  
open.  
But  
there  
it  
ends.  
The  
screen  
goes  
blank  
and  
stays  
like  
it.

To  
cut  
a  
long  
story  
short,  
I've  
concluded  
that  
the  
problem  
lies  
with  
the  
NT  
Loader,  
in

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that  
the  
system  
files  
of  
Win2K  
called  
NTLDR  
and  
NTDetect.com  
differ  
from  
those  
of  
WinXP,  
the  
Win2K  
ones  
dating  
back  
to  
1999.  
Win2K  
is  
the  
OS  
in  
the  
boot  
partition  
(C:)  
and  
so  
the  
choice  
between  
the  
two  
OSs  
is  
there  
when  
I  
then  
boot  
the  
PC  
but  
(as  
I  
understand

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it)  
WinXP  
picks  
up  
the  
wrong  
NTLDR  
and  
NTDetect.com  
files  
and  
so  
fails  
to  
boot  
to  
screen.

The  
article  
at:

<http://support.microsoft.com/default.aspx?scid=kb%3>

gives  
some  
insight  
into  
this  
and  
gives  
a  
possible  
solution.  
This  
involves  
copying  
the  
XP  
versions  
of  
the  
two  
files  
to  
the  
Win2K  
partition.  
Since  
I  
can

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still  
run  
Win2K  
and  
can  
also  
explore  
the  
WinXP  
CD,  
to  
get  
at  
the  
two  
newer  
files,  
I  
could  
copy  
them  
across,  
as  
suggested.

However,  
the  
article  
is  
ambiguous,  
in  
that  
it's  
not  
clear  
whether  
identical  
pairs  
of  
these  
files  
need  
to  
exist  
in  
both  
XP  
and  
2K.  
Also,  
whether

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you're  
supposed  
to  
delete  
the  
Win2K's  
versions  
of  
these  
files  
before  
then  
copying  
across  
from  
the  
XP  
CD.  
Does  
anyone  
know  
the  
answer  
to  
this?  
Has  
anyone  
met  
this  
problem?

Actually,  
when  
you  
look  
in  
an  
up-to-date  
Win2K,  
the  
existing  
files  
NTLDR  
and  
NTDetect.com  
get  
used  
in  
other  
folders,  
other

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than  
just  
residing  
in  
the  
root  
folder.  
This  
means  
that  
if  
you  
changed  
the  
versions  
in  
the  
root  
folder,  
you'd  
end  
up  
with  
two  
different  
versions  
of  
the  
files  
in  
Win2K.  
Some  
of  
the  
existing  
ones  
are  
involved  
in  
uninstalling  
service  
pack  
files,  
etc.,  
so  
are  
quite  
important.

If  
this

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grabs  
your  
interest,  
go  
to  
Windows  
Explorer  
in  
each  
of  
Win2K  
and  
WinXP,  
and  
go  
to  
Tools/Folder  
Options  
and  
untick  
Hide  
System  
Files  
(Recommended),  
then  
search  
for  
these  
files  
in  
the  
respective  
root  
areas.  
Better  
still,  
do  
Search/Files  
&  
Folders.  
You'll  
see  
what  
I  
mean.

I'm  
anxious  
to  
get  
WinXP

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booted  
to  
screen  
but  
this  
seems  
the  
only  
hope  
in  
doing  
it.  
A  
problem  
peculiar  
to  
dual-booting,  
it  
seems.

Thanks,  
everyone,  
for your  
various  
suggestions.

Jerry,

I've read  
what you've  
written and  
am not sure  
to which  
part of the  
whole  
WinXP  
Setup cycle  
you're  
referring.  
I'm  
certainly  
booting to  
the XP CD  
initially,  
having  
changed the

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BIOS to do  
so. I'm  
finding that  
toward the  
end  
of the  
WinXP  
Setup, the  
PC reboots  
itself and  
that's where  
the XP  
splashscreen  
then  
appears. But  
then the  
screen goes  
blank and  
stays blank.  
I've then  
had no  
option but  
to power  
off. When I  
power the  
PC back on,  
I get  
the same  
result if I  
choose to  
go into  
WinXP. I've  
tried this  
last bit,  
leaving the  
CD in the  
drive and  
then not  
leaving the  
CD in the  
drive, but  
WinXP still  
refuses to  
boot. On the  
assumption  
that I'll  
finally  
manage to  
get XP to  
boot to  
screen,

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should I  
leave the  
XP CD in  
the drive  
until I'm  
specifically  
instructed  
by the  
Setup or  
Welcome to  
WinXP to  
remove it?

John,

Having  
unmasked  
the system  
files in  
Folder  
Options, I  
yesterday  
tried to  
overwrite  
the ntldr file  
in my  
Win2K root  
folder but  
the system  
wouldn't let  
me do it. I  
got an error  
message  
saying it  
was a  
protected  
file. An  
example  
of the files  
I'm  
currently  
seeing in  
the Win2K  
partition  
are:

NTDETECT.COM  
C:\  
ntdetect.com  
C:\cmdcons  
ntdetect.com

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C:\WINNT\\$NtServicePackUninstall\$  
ntdetect.com  
C:\WINNT\ServicePackFiles\i386

So, this is  
why I'm  
wary of  
REPLACING  
ntdetect.com.  
There are  
similar  
folder  
nestings for  
the file  
ntldr.  
Maybe a  
distinction  
has to be  
made  
between  
REPLACING  
the existing  
file in the  
Win2K root  
or  
ADDING a  
new file?  
And are  
files that are  
in different  
cases  
(upper/lower)  
considered  
different,  
anyway?  
Do you see  
what I  
mean?

The Upper/lower case  
makes no difference at all.  
The file has to be  
replaced, there cannot be  
two copies of the files with  
the same name in  
the root folder. The boot  
process uses only the files in  
the root  
directory, the other ones are  
not used. The Windows XP

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version of the files are aware of earlier Windows versions and know how to boot these earlier versions. Try renaming the existing file or try doing it from the recovery console as it says in the article you mentioned earlier. Are you sure that is the cause of your problem?

Having Windows installed on different primary partitions (as opposed to logical drives) make no difference. You can have up to four primary partitions if you want and have a different operating system on each of them, it doesn't matter to Windows one way or the other, there will only be one active partition, aka the System partition or System volume, and the files necessary to start the operating system will be stored in the root directory of the System partition. What does the boot.ini file contain, what does it say for the XP setup? Does it point to the setup bootsector?

John

John

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