

Re: How to make a new partition?

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- *From:* "Ken Blake, MVP" <kblake@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Sun, 10 Dec 2006 15:02:16 -0700
-

Gerry Cornell wrote:

Having two drives rather than one is in effect partitioning.

Although there are similarities, I don't really agree with that statement. But I'll let it go for now, since it's essentially a side issue.

Partitioning whether sub-dividing drives or by having more than one drive has organisational benefits and can simplify taking backups and routine maintenance.

Gerry, I wasn't arguing against having more than one partition, I was explaining why my view of what its benefits are is different from Shenan's.

I don't want to go into all the reasons why one might have multiple partitions or not, but my general view is that most people's partitioning scheme should be based on their backup scheme. If, for example, you backup by creating a clone or image on the entire drive, then a single partition might be best. If, on the other hand, you backup only your data, then the backup process is facilitated by having all data in a separate partition.

That's why I said, quoted below, "My second point was that I felt that the main good reason for separating operating system and data had nothing to do with facilitating reinstallation, but was to facilitate your backup scheme, if that scheme was a data-only backup, rather than a complete image of the drive."

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Ken Blake – Microsoft MVP Windows: Shell/User
Please reply to the newsgroup

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Compare the advantage of separate partitions holding your Outlook Express current identity, with an archive identity, with a dedicated operating system / programme partition with putting all on a single drive. Mixing files which fragment rapidly with ones that do not makes routine maintenance take much longer. Providing the user has a third party partitioning tool where are the disadvantages?

I am now lighting the blue touch paper and running like a bat out of hell<g>!

"Ken Blake, MVP" <kblake@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message news:Ozpuc2JHHHA.3668@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Shenan Stanley wrote:

Chuck Davis wrote:

For the life of me, I don't know the perceived advantages of partitioning the drive. I've read a lot of "reasons," but none made it through my thick skull. In those computers that arrive from the manufacturer with the OS in a partition, I have found that that partition will eventually be too small and cause problems.

Shenan Stanley wrote:

The **only** technical advantage that is hard to argue with is if you want to store your DATA – nothing else – on the second partition. The advantage? If you **have** to reinstall the OS and you know what you are doing – at least your data stays intact – given the reason for the whole mess is non-hardware related and whatever software issue that caused your reinstall did not include deleting files from other drives. **grin** As far as non-technical reasoning...

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Organization. For some people it is simpler to think that all their applications are installed on D. Their operating system is C. Their picture files are E. Their word documents are F. Etc... Perception only – but that goes a long way with human beings – after all – most things are perception only when you get down to it. Personally – I make one large partition and install the OS and all applications.

I buy additional drive(s) and install them as needed – usually in a RAID fashion.

<last example snipped>

Ken Blake, MVP wrote:

Sorry to disagree, but I'll throw in a contrary opinion here, if I may:
I don't think that's a good reason for separating data on a separate partition at all. To me, if your data is important to you, it always needs to be backed up, and if it is backed up and you ever have to reinstall the operating system, you simply restore the data from the backup, even if it's not on a separate partition. In fact, I think that many people who do as you suggest get a false sense of security from it and have that kind of separation *instead* of a backup, thinking that it takes away the need for a backup. In fact, that's not at all true of course, since things like a hard drive crash (and other events) can easily destroy everything. To me the best reason for keeping your data on a partition separate from the operating system system is to facilitate data backup. If you back up only data, rather than image the

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entire drive, with most backup programs, it's easier to do it if the data is on a separate partition.

I am unsure where we disagreed. You expanded on the only technical reason I could come up with for partitioning – you did not disagree with it per se. I never mentioned backup here – but it was not because I felt it should not be a matter of concern; perhaps I left too much to assumption there

Well, perhaps I misinterpreted your message, but as I read it, your main reason for separating operating system and data was to facilitate reinstallation if necessary. My first point was that the need for backup is paramount and if a good backup scheme is in place, a separate partition isn't needed to facilitate reinstallation. My second point was that I felt that the main good reason for separating operating system and data had nothing to do with facilitating reinstallation, but was to facilitate your backup scheme, if that scheme was a data-only backup, rather than a complete image of the drive.

I'm not sure that I've said anything different from what I did previously, but perhaps the above will clarify where I thought we differed.

Matter of fact the very reason I added the last part of the last sentence: "... given the reason for the whole mess is non-hardware related and whatever software issue that caused your reinstall did not include deleting files from other drives. *grin* ..." implies that said method is *not* foolproof nor should be relied upon.

While I appreciate the additional information you have added (which may prevent misunderstanding in the future on said topic) – I do not see as we had any disagreement here. You just took my explanation to the next level – backing up data – which should always be

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in
place, partitioning or not.

If I was wrong, and we actually agree, then great, I'm glad to hear it, and I apologize for suggesting the contrary.

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Ken Blake – Microsoft MVP Windows: Shell/User
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