

Re: How to make a new partition?

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<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.newusers/2006-12/msg00281.html>

- *From:* "Ken Blake, MVP" <kblake@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Sun, 10 Dec 2006 12:52:35 -0700
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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.

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**

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 is to facilitate data backup. If you back up only data, rather than image the entire drive, with most backup programs, it's

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easier to do it if the data is on a separate partition.

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Ken Blake – Microsoft MVP Windows: Shell/User
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