

SP3 interrupted by BSOD, now XP hangs before profile load

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Sorry if this is the wrong group – just looking for some ideas...

Long story short, I was trying to make room on a FAT32 C: 4.7GB partition to install SP3 on XP Professional, and did various silly (read: stupid) things like 1) have no backup, 2) system restore turned off (although I did move one restore point to a different drive/partition, so I might be able to use it), 3) moved various update restore directories to the above mentioned drive.

Of course, the BSOD happened in mid-update – where exactly I'm not sure because I was in front of the machine at the time. With a reboot, the chkdsk started – I cancelled it (another swift move on my part). Setup rolled itself back. With the next reboot, XP got as far as loading to the point where my profile starts – nothing happened beyond the mouse pointer appearing. Same thing in safe mode. Tried safe mode with command prompt – no login shield. Tried to launch the repair console from my slipstreamed-with-SP install disk – machine reboots itself at point where the administrator login prompt would normally show. Tried going through the "Repair Install" – let chkdsk run (lost chains recovered), a reboot to CD and with the Repair Install got the files from the cd copied to disk. Crossed my fingers, and rebooted to the hard drive – but same result, this time with jagged mouse pointer (VGA drivers ?). And that's where I am now –

If there's any hope in heck of recovering my installation (my programs are on a different partition, with lots of registry redirect hacks for Quicktime and other "always to C" installations), I'm happy to listen to suggestions. I can access my hard drive with a BartPE disk, so if renaming and moving around hidden files can get me there, I can do that. The login problem, though, suggests that I may have SAM database or dll corruption, or a combination of SP2 and 3 files that don't want to work together, which is obviously far more serious.

And next time, I'll have a complete backup, so help me....

Thanks in advance –

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