

Re: Should I make an image disk?

Source:

http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.perform_maintain/2008-10/msg00341.htm

- *From:* "Lil' Dave" <spamyourself@xxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Wed, 29 Oct 2008 08:44:34 -0500
-

After reading your reply, I believe you have XP installed entirely in the C: partition. You keep your photo and music data in a separate location from your other remaining personal data. You backup your photo and music data to different location (physical removable media? unclear) than your personal data. You did say you have 2 external hard drives, so, I assume you are keeping backups of your self-described data separated on those external hard drives per your original post.

Based on your question about backing up the entire XP partition (C:), the XP installation disc (CD) is of no bearing in the information phase of your question. As noted by other replies to your post, imaging software is typically used for ease of use, reliability, able to copy XP files within the XP environment or from boot media. For quickest backup and restoration, an external hard drive is typically used for storage of such an image. Note that the resulting image file is always smaller than the sum of all the data in that partition. A clean installation of XP may be kept on CD for image restoration in the event of major loss of external hard drive failure where partition images are normally stored.

Something I did fail to see in the image software replies was the 2nd phase of testing the imaging software. The first phase is implementing image of the partition to your media. The 2nd phase of testing the imaging software is restoration of that image back to its original source location from the media you saved it to. If the 2nd phase is not done right away, you cannot feel confident of its use. The most common failures are of the imaging software unable to access the media where you saved the image file, and 2ndly, a corrupt image file resulting in image restoration failure. The 2nd failure is usually avoided by verification of the image file after the actual image creation. Verification is usually optional during the imaging creation sequence.

Others may disagree, in my own personal opinion and experiences, it would be smarter to keep all your personal data including photos etc. in another partition on the same hard drive, separated by folders and subfolders for organization. XP and 3rd party software still on the C: partition.

—
Dave

Re: Should I make an image disk?

If it looks like fish, smells like fish, its not a cantaloupe.

"Hans" <Hans@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message news:AC8B01E3-B1DE-4DD2-9E91-FE9B0F2E07E1@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Hello "Lil" Dave

The disc I have is a sealed MS CD with I presume contains XP. The serial number was removed from a tab and is stuck on the back of the PC.

Since I look after my data with frequent back-ups (I keep my many photographs and music separate from the rest of the data and back-ups) I would really like a disc that just reinstalls XP the way it is now. After a few weeks of use. In that case I could reinstall XP if it ever would start getting slow. Going to an earlier restorepoint might do the same). But recently my previous PC apparently developed a fault in the motherboard and it tripped just before filling in the XP password to a blue screen. I then bought a new PC and have been re-installing all the old software and migrating data. This took me many days and great frustration. Now I can do anything except play DVDs like on the former one. Hence my question for an image disc.

But from the replies I received (many thanks to all) I think I continue with my frequent back-ups of data on 2 external HDs and if ever my main HD fails, I will just re-install all the software again from the discs I have.

Kind regards
Hans

"Lil' Dave" wrote:

"Hans" <Hans@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message news:D22703D5-2BF9-472D-BE48-1EE52F5E941F@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

I recently bought a new PC with XP Home on it. I have 2 external HDs for back-up of data and use Retrospect software for that, works very well.

My PC came with an XP CD.

My question really is: should I make an image disk (preferably on the external HDs) so I can repair or refresh XP if that is ever needed.

Some

Re: Should I make an image disk?

friends tell me one should re-install XP once/year or so to clean up the registry etc. I am not familiar with using image disks, except that I made one a while ago for a new laptop. The HD of that laptop failed within a day and a new one was installed by the technician. He was very happy that I had made an image disk and within a few minutes all was up and running again.

But I have no instructions on my new PC how to make an image disk, any help here? And would it be useful to do so since I do have an XP disk.

Unclear if you mean a virtual image of the XP installation CD (disc, not disk), current installation of XP in image file format which is probably been used a bit and not new, new installation of XP in image file format. You said what some friends said to do once a year, but, you failed to indicate what your intentions were/are/will be.

--

Dave

If it looks like fish, smells like fish, its not a cantaloupe.