

## Re: Juggling partions?

**Source:**

[http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.setup\\_deployment/2004-04/0191.html](http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.setup_deployment/2004-04/0191.html)

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**From:** Jim ([null\\_at\\_null.com](mailto:null_at_null.com))

**Date:** 04/02/04

Date: Thu, 1 Apr 2004 18:18:26 -0800

BootIt NG *\*does\** let you setup boot menu items, where you can determine exactly what partition is booted, and what other partitions are to be included (i.e., other entries in the mbr, or master boot record), and which ones are hidden, these are called Boot Menu Items. I didn't want to make the post even longer by covering *\*every\** detail, but simply address the immediate problem. I was simply illustrating how incredibly easy it is to solve this particular problem by using BootIt NG because it gives you the *\*option\** to directly boot any bootable partition from what it calls the Direct Boot Menu. If all you have is a simple case of two bootable partitions, and no shared data partition(s), then you don't *\*have\** to setup individual boot menu items, the Direct Boot Menu automatically hides ALL other partitions when you double-click any bootable partition.

IOW, it's mindnumbingly easy to use BootIt NG for the simplest cases, you literally install it, go to the Direct Boot Menu (where you'll see your two bootable partitions) and assuming each is currently bootable as C:, just double-click it. If, however, you want to create boot menu items even for these cases, fine, do so, but you don't *\*have\** to. When you do create boot menu items, *\*you\** decide what's bootable, and what other partitions will be seen or not seen based on whether you include them in the boot menu item's definition. Any partition that's not in the definition is implicitly hidden, any partitions that *\*are\** in the definition are, of course, not hidden. By creating the boot menu item, you make the boot manager handle all the details, rather than trying to muck with details yourself, such as when using PM.

Jim

"Pegasus (MVP)" <[I.can@fly.com](mailto:I.can@fly.com)> wrote in message  
news:urnfpOFGEHA.3880@TK2MSFTNGP09.phx.gbl...

> *I agree with the thrust of your lengthy post even though I prefer*  
> *to use a boot loader that lets \*\*\*me\*\*\* determine which partitions*  
> *should be hidden and which ones should be visible, rather than*  
> *doing it automatically like BootIt (going only by what you wrote).*

>

>

> "Jim" <[null@null.com](mailto:null@null.com)> wrote in message

news:qg3bc.4464\$zh.3486@fed1read07...

> > *This is why you use a boot manager like BootIt NG!!! (*  
> > *<http://www.bootitng.com> ) If you had, you'd have NONE of these*  
problems.  
> > *The problem with the MS boot manager is that it can't hide partitions,*  
so  
> > *no*  
> > *matter what you do, you always see one or the other. Granted, perhaps*  
you  
> > *can install PM (Partition Magic) and manually muck with the partition*  
IDs  
> > *and active indicators every darn time you want to change the bootable*  
OS,  
> > *but my lord, what a hassle. Even then, you \*STILL\* have to choose which*  
> > *of*  
> > *the two partitions will contain PM! IOW, you've already started a*  
> > *partition*  
> > *dependency, albeit, tied to PM.*  
> >  
> > *Instead, install BootIt NG in a \*third\* partiton all by its lonesome,*  
> > *perhaps at the very end of the HD, only requires about 8MB. Then, you*  
can  
> > *boot your partitions, either one of them right off its direct boot menu,*  
> > *you*  
> > *don't even need to set up individual boot menu items as long as you*  
don't  
> > *want, say, a third shared data partition. You just double-click the*  
> > *partition you want booted, and AUTOMATICALLY all others are hidden! You*  
> > *can*  
> > *believe how incredibly simple it all is. In fact, you're making life*  
only  
> > *\*more\* difficult by mucking w/ PM to do this job. PM is \*not\* a boot*  
> > *manager, not unless you install the Boot Magic boot manager that comes*  
w/  
> > *it*  
> > *(at least that's way it was packaged way back in version 4.0 when I*  
> > *abandoned it for BootIt NG, which made PM obsolete, IMO). Even so, Boot*  
> > *Magic is nearly identical to BootIt NG in this regard.*  
> >  
> > *People insist on making this stuff a LOT harder than it need be. As*  
long  
> > *as*  
> > *you continue to muck w/ the MS boot loader, it will drive you nuts.*  
It's  
> > *major flaw is an inability to hide partitions. Because it can't, you're*  
> > *left in this mess of having to hide other partitions so, for example, al*  
l  
> > *your OS installations can still boot as C: (i.e., you have no*  
> > *inter-partition dependencies). The MS boot loader leaves you with no*  
> > *choice*  
> > *but to build-in drive letter dependencies because it can't hide other*

> > *partitions. Trying to mitigate that w/ manual procedures via PM is*  
> *perhaps*  
> > *doable, but it's incredibly silly, leave that to a boot manager, like*  
> *BootIt*  
> > *NG or even Boot Magic. Install BootIt NG, you get 30 days FREE, you*  
*don't*  
> > *like it, take it out (uninstalls easily, leaves your system EXACTLY as*  
*it*  
> > *was before installation). Trust me, once you do, and use all its other*  
> > *features, like backup imaging, partition management, etc., you'll wonder*  
> *why*  
> > *you ever bothered w/ PM. At the very least, it will demonstrate how*  
> > *\*procedurally\* you're making a mmountain out of a mole hill.*  
> >  
> > *HTH*  
> >  
> > *Jim*  
> >  
> >  
> > *"Noozer" <dont.spam@me.here> wrote in message*  
> > *news:8C0bc.6972\$oR5.3831@pd7tw3no...*  
> > > *I wanted to avoid the XP and ME installations having anything to do*  
*with*  
> > > *each other.*  
> > >  
> > > *I was hoping that by using two primary partitions that they would stay*  
> > > *separate, booting to whichever partition was active (the way it SHOULD*  
> > > *work), but Microsoft insists on stomping on whatever other OS's are on*  
> *the*  
> > > *drive.*  
> > >  
> > > *"Jim Macklin" <p51mustang[threeX12]@xxxhotmail.calm> wrote in message*  
> > > *news:uL2SShCGEHA.2612@TK2MSFTNGP09.phx.gbl...*  
> > > > *To set up a dual boot you install the older OS to the C:*  
> > > > *partition, as you did and then while in that partition begin*  
> > > > *to install XP. It will detect the existing OS (ME) and ask*  
> > > > *where you want to install XP. You select D: and XP will*  
> > > > *install on D: but it will install a boot loader on C: that*  
> > > > *will be detected when you boot and ask whether you want to*  
> > > > *run ME or XP.*  
> > > > *See*  
> > > > <http://support.microsoft.com/default.aspx?scid=kb;en-us:Q305873>  
> > > >  
> > > >  
> > > > *"Noozer" <postmaster@127.0.0.1> wrote in message*  
> > > > *news:gP\_ac.6610\$Pk3.3699@pd7tw1no...*  
> > > > *| I recently installed Windows ME and Windows XP into my*  
> > > > *computer.*  
> > > > *| Unfortunately Win XP trashed the Win ME installation so*  
> > > > *I'm about to repair*  
> > > > *| and need some advise...*

>>>> /  
>>>> / *I created TWO primary partitions on the hard drive. I set*  
>>>> *the first*  
>>>> / *partition active and installed Window ME onto that*  
>>>> *partition. I got it all*  
>>>> / *setup and it was working fine.*  
>>>> /  
>>>> / *I then set the second partition as active and installed*  
>>>> *Win XP onto that*  
>>>> / *partition. It is also configured how I like and works*  
>>>> *fine.*  
>>>> /  
>>>> / *Now, I try and set the first partition active and the PC*  
>>>> *does not boot. I*  
>>>> / *assume that Win XP has stomped on the boot sector of the*  
>>>> *hard drive.*  
>>>> /  
>>>> / *I have Partition Magic 8 and am hoping I can do some*  
>>>> *partition*  
>>>> / *conversion/moving and get the Win ME installation back*  
>>>> *without having to*  
>>>> / *re-install. If necessary I could get a ghosting program*  
>>>> *and dump the*  
>>>> / *partition to CD and restore it later, but I'd rather avoid*  
>>>> *that if possible.*  
>>>> /  
>>>> / *Is there any way I can repair these installations so both*  
>>>> *installs will*  
>>>> / *work?*  
>>>> /  
>>>> / *Thanks!*  
>>>> /  
>>>> /  
>>>>  
>>>  
>>>  
>>  
>>  
>  
>