

Re: xp install crashed my party

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http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.setup_deployment/2004-08/2312.html

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Date: 08/22/04

Date: Sat, 21 Aug 2004 22:46:13 -0600

"Joe" <hhhhhhhhhh@hotmai.com> wrote in message
news:31ce01c48750\$74dd4c50\$a301280a@phx.gbl...
> *My goal was to have a dual setup with windows 98 and xp. I
> had already formatted half my hard drive to run windows 98
> on fat32, it worked fine. When I ran the xp cd from dos
> (it is an academic professional upgrade) i did not see
> many of the advanced options specified by the manual. I
> formatted the other half of my hard drive in ntfs and told
> it to install there, only because it did not offer the
> option of fat32. Upon restart to finish the install, my
> computer said there was a disk error (not the one for
> floppies.)*
>
> *After fidgiting around with boot disks, i got to dos. I
> realized that windows 98 would not run, but xp had not
> replaced it (besides, i had asked it to install on the new
> partition.) Upon attempting to reinstall xp, the program
> only showed one partition of the hard drive, which was 32
> gigs, far under the original size of the partitions. (come
> to think of it, this might be the size of all the actual
> data i had on the disk.)*
>
> *All I really want to do is get the data off the disk for
> now, and afterwards set up the dual boot. But since they
> don't make cd-burning software for dos, and i don't feel
> like buying a spare hard drive, it seems like i have to
> get an operating system up and running again, without
> wiping out the data.*
>
> *I can think of two reasons my install failed. Back when I
> formatted my hard drive the first time, I used a maxtor
> overlay. When I formatted for xp, I used the xp cd,
> without the overlay. Since I was installing two different
> file formats on the same drive to begin with, it might
> have caused a conflict. (As a side note, when I put that
> cd in now, it tells me it will erase all the data if i*

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- > *want to look at my partitions, so i don't want to go*
- > *there. Does that really make sense?)*
- >
- > *The other possible reason has to do with my bios options.*
- > *Before I installed xp, I turned on "Boot to os/2" (which I*
- > *really hope means boot to where you can choose between 2*
- > *different operating systems, but upon reflection it might*
- > *not mean that.) I also have options to run in compatible*
- > *mode (win 98) or enhanced mode (win xp) for my ide*
- > *devices. Under these options you can run on sata only,*
- > *pata only, or both (i have no sata devices.) I have*
- > *already tried fooling around with the sata, pata,*
- > *compatible, and enhanced modes to see how it affects what*
- > *partitions the xp install (and the hard drive) sees, but*
- > *with no discernable differences.*
- >
- > *I'm going to try to reinstall windows 98 now. I want to*
- > *know three things: how to get the data off the hard drive*
- > *(or how to get an os working without losing data,) how to*
- > *get the dual boot working, and what I did wrong. Please*
- > *help!*

Drive overlays are a bad idea, unless you have no other choice. Mess up the overlay and you can lose everything, or at least get to a really ugly place where it's difficult to recover from

OS2 in the bios refers to the almost-extinct operating system OS2. Oops.

Your best bet for recovering data is to put that drive into a working computer and copying what you need to save. Trying to reinstall any OS at this point is just asking for trouble. It might work, or you might end up making it all worse.