

## Re: Advice on DOS / WinXP co-existence

**Source:**

[http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.setup\\_deployment/2005-01/0054.html](http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.setup_deployment/2005-01/0054.html)

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**From:** Al Dykes ([adykes\\_at\\_panix.com](mailto:adykes_at_panix.com))

**Date:** 12/31/04

Date: 31 Dec 2004 15:38:25 -0500

In article <O4GkYf37EHA.3840@tk2msftngp13.phx.gbl>,

R. C. White <[rc@corridor.net](mailto:rc@corridor.net)> wrote:

>Hi, René.

>

>Your plan should work fine, so long as you keep a few basic facts in mind.

>

>First, MS-DOS can't read, write, boot from or even SEE and NTFS partition,

>so be sure to keep Drive C: formatted FAT (12, 16 or 32). You should be

>able to simply move it into the new computer as primary master.

>

>Second, no matter how many drives and partitions you have in the computer

>and no matter where WinXP is installed, the boot process must start in the

>"System Partition", which is the Active partition on the first HD –

>typically Drive C:.

>

>Third, WinXP can be installed into just about any volume (primary partition

>or logical drive in an extended partition) on any HD in your computer. The

>boot process will still start in C:, but C:\ntldr will use C:\boot.ini to

>find WinXP on D: or X: or whichever volume you choose.

>

>Fourth, note some counterintuitive terminology: As many writers have

>pointed out, we boot from the system partition and keep the operating system

>files in the boot volume. This is legacy terminology that MS inherited and

>we're all stuck with it, at least for now. If you choose to install WinXP

>in D:, then D: will be your "boot volume" and D:\Windows will be your "boot

>folder".

>

>Fifth, as you said, install the newest OS last. (Don't buy a computer with

>WinXP pre-installed; install it from a retail CD-ROM. Either the Home or

>Professional Edition should work unless you need some of the networking

>functions left out of the Home Edition. An upgrade CD should work, so long

>as you have a CD from a qualifying earlier Windows version to show when

>Setup asks for it.) When WinXP Setup detects that MS-DOS is already

>installed, it will automatically create the dual-boot configuration. It

>will save the MS-DOS-style boot sector that is on Drive C: into a new file,

>C:\bootsect.dos, then write the NT-style boot sector into the first physical

>sector of C: and write WinXP's system files (ntldr, ntdetect.com and

>boot.ini) into the Root of C: and the rest of WinXP into \Windows on  
>whichever volume you choose.  
>  
>After installation of WinXP, each time she reboots, she should see a menu  
>from which she can choose to boot into MS-DOS or into WinXP (and she can set  
>it to default to either one). When she chooses MS-DOS, the bootsect.dos  
>file will be used to load C:\io.sys and C:\msdos.sys, just as if the  
>computer was booting from an MS-DOS boot sector and all her DOS programs  
>should run as before.  
>  
>WinXP includes two MS-DOS emulators; the 16-bit version is Command.com and  
>the 32-bit version is Cmd.exe, also known as Command Prompt. Most MS-DOS  
>programs run just fine in one of these "DOS" windows. WinXP deals with  
>hardware through the HAL, so DOS programs that try to directly manipulate  
>hardware often have problems in WinXP. Perhaps that legacy dBase  
>application will run in a "DOS" window inside WinXP. Have you tried it?  
>  
>As Al Dykes pointed out, there are other ways to handle the dual boot  
>situation. The only one I have experience with is the system that Microsoft  
>built into all the NT-style Windows versions, which works as I have  
>described.  
>  
>RC  
>--  
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Detail: Virtual PC/VMware isn't dual boot. Your DOS machine is running as a process on XP, along with your native XP apps. When you set it up you tell it to create a virtual FAT file system that lives on your NTFS C drive. The Best of both worlds.

I'm sure you knew that, I'm pointing this up for people that are not familiar with virtual machines..

>  
>"Rene" <presse\_spammerssuck@hotmail.com> wrote in message  
>news:qYgBd.54511\$Tn1.1893832@news20.bellglobal.com...  
>> Hello,  
>>  
>> My mom has an old DOS PC on which she is running a legacy DBase  
>> application. We don't want nor can we change/upgrade/disturb this setup.  
>>  
>> But I want to provide her with access to Internet/email/browsing  
>> capabilities – all on ONE platform.  
>>  
>> I'm looking for advice/comments on the following plan of mine.  
>>  
>> Get her a modern PC and install for dual boot: DOS, WinXP; I've read on

microsoft.public.windowsxp.setup\_deployment: Re: Advice on DOS / WinXP co-existence

>> *microsoft that WinXP must be installed last – that's fine by me.*  
>>  
>> *Questions:*  
>> *Can I take her old disk (from the old Dos PC), and swap it into the new*  
>> *system? (I will configure this as C: drive just to make sure!)*  
>> *I plan to install WinXP on a separate drive (D:\). Is this Okay?*  
>> *During the WinXP installation, is it straightforward to configure dual*  
>> *boot (1) WinXP, (2) DOS ?*  
>> *When I boot from the old DOS disk, will her legacy apps still work,*  
>> *without reinstalling DBase for example?!*  
>>  
>> *Any comments/pointers/hints are greatly appreciated!*  
>>  
>> *René*  
>

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a d y k e s @ p a n i x . c o m  
Don't blame me. I voted for Gore.