

Re: A Dual-boot question; I thought C was always the partition with the running OS

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*Source:*

[http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.setup\\_deployment/2006-01/msg00580.htm](http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.setup_deployment/2006-01/msg00580.htm)

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- *From:* "Timothy Daniels" <TDaniels@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
  - *Date:* Mon, 23 Jan 2006 02:28:18 -0800
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"Pegasus (MVP)" wrote:

"Timothy Daniels" wrote:

"Al Dykes" wrote:

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>
> I've never screwed with booting Windows from more
> than one disk or partition, before, but I was under the
> impression that C: would be pointed to whatever
> partition had the running system.
>
> Now I'm playing with a system that has two disks.
> They show up as C and E. C has XP, E has server 2003.
> Boot.ini has entries for both but when I pucker the second,
> HOMEDRIVE is E. Which is right, but breaking lots of
> setup scripts. Grrr.
>
> Am I immagining the boot-partition-is-always-called-C thing?
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Have you tried this: Install the Server 2003 on a separate hard drive withOUT the WinXP hard drive connected. The Server 2003 will then call its partion "C:" Local Disk. Then modify the WinXP single-boot boot.ini file so that it will dual-boot. (Since it's already dual-booting, you can leave boot.ini as it is now.) When WinXP starts up, it will see the Server 2003 partition as "E:", but who cares? When Server 2003 starts up, it will call itself "C:" and it will call the WinXP partition "E:", but again, who cares? This will be a situation analogous to dual-booting between different clones of the same OS. Each will call itself "C:" and the other clone some other letter, but who cares?

\*TimDaniels\*

Could you explain why the server installation would appear as drive C: while both disks are connected? Have you tried

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this for yourself? Just because Windows Server was installed on drive C: does NOT mean that it will stick to this letter with both disks connected!

I have not tried this myself. But why would it not work? If an OS is installed on an isolated hard drive, it will call its partition the "C:" Local Disk, just as the OP's WinXP OS has done. If the Server 2003 is installed on an isolated hard drive, I have assumed that it will call its partition the "C:" Local Disk as well. Then the situation will be analogous to having an OS running with its clone visible - the running OS calls its partition "C:" and it refers to the partition containing the other OS by some other name, such as "E:". And when the 2nd OS is running, it also calls its partition the "C:" Local Disk, and it calls the 1st OS's partition some other name, such as "E:". This is what clones do, so why wouldn't two Oses which have been installed in isolation from each other do the same? Please realize that I'm saying that the RUNNING operating system will call its partition "C:", while the other OS is merely seen as a file hierarchy in another partition. I am NOT saying that an OS that is NOT running will have its partition known as "C:" by the running OS.

\*TimDaniels\*

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