

Re: Problems setting up SATA drives and getting Windows XP to load on them.

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- *From:* "Mercury" <me@xxxxxxxx>
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JBOD is rarely used – very rarely.

Most usual RAID levels are RAID 1 and 5 (for current workstation hardware). RAID0 is foolishly common.

Many use RAID 0 – striping under the impression that they will get a magic performance boost. Instead they get a more than doubling of the probability of loss of data on those discs.

RAID1 – mirroring – increases data resilience via the mirror process but at the cost of an extra disc for each disc. RAID5 increases data resilience not quite as far and at a lower cost – it is a compromise between resilience and cost – it costs less (discs) but the controllers cost more, read performance is quite improved, but write performance is quite degraded. Often the loss of write performance can be ignored as the ratio of writes to reads is often low – 1:10 or so.

RAID is no replacement for backups.

Before implementig RAID always run failure simulations so you know what happens and how to fix it. Disc drives do die, and just 'cos you have RAID they don't stop.

HTH

– Tim

<adrianpullar@xxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
news:1150994825.951750.70990@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Looking around the internet it seems a lot of people are having problems setting up SATA drives and getting Windows XP to load on them. Much of this is in setting up the RAID configuration to get the computer to recognise the discs in the first place. Below are my notes which should help anyone to have a general overview of how to solve the problem on their specific machine.

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Setting up SATA Drives on an ASUS Motherboard.

Plug the drives into the SLi (red) slots on the motherboard and connect power to the drives.

You need to enter the RAID setup to tell it that you do not want the discs set up as RAID devices. This means using the Just A Bunch of Discs option – which is called "JBOD (Single)" – and you need to do it for each installed SATA disc. Here's how

- * When the computer boots up, the message "Press <Ctrl-S> or F4 to enter RAID utility" is displayed. Press F4.

- * A screen appears with a series of boxes in it. In the bottom left box entitled "Physical Drive", highlight the first drive – it is usually designated drive zero.

- * In the "Create Raid Set" box, highlight "JBOD (Single)" and press enter. This sets the SATA disc up as a single RAID device.

- * If you have a second SATA drive installed, go back to the "Physical Drive" box, highlight the second drive – it is usually designated "1", and repeat the process.

The SATA drives will now be recognised by the computer.

Configuring a mixture of SATA and IDE drives in the BIOS.

Enter the BIOS and under "Boot" select

– Hard Disc Drives. This lets you decide which drive to boot from and lets you place the drives in any order you require.

Installing Windows XP on SATA Drives.

To install Windows XP on a new blank SATA disc you need to make yourself a floppy disc with the SATA drivers on it. You are not going to boot from this floppy, just show it to Windows XP as XP loads so that it can load the drivers and recognise the SATA drives. This floppy is referred to as a "RAID drivers disc", and you can create one from one of the options on the CD that comes with the new motherboard. You can also download the required files from the www.asus.com.tw site. See "Creating a RAID Drivers Disc" in the manual – or look on the web for more help if required – but it is not a hard procedure. So....

- * You need a blank formatted floppy disc.

- * Using the supplied CD copy the files to the floppy.

- * Take the floppy out of the drive and boot off the Windows XP install CD.

- * Watch as windows begins the setup process and you will see the message "Press F6 if you need to install a third party SCSI or RAID driver...". That's you – so press F6.

- * Windows keeps rolling on for a while and then stops with the message..

"Setup could not determine the type of one or more storage devices installed on your system, etc...

- * To specify additional SCSI adapters, CD-ROM drives, or special disk controllers press S".

- * So here you place the floppy in the drive and press "S".

- * A list of drivers on the floppy appears – you are looking for SiL 3114 drivers for Windows XP. eg

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"Silicon imageSil 3114SoftRAID 5 Controller for Windows XP/Server
2003"

Windows should now install on the SATA drive