

Re: large HD partition: who is right?

Source:

http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.setup_deployment/2008-09/msg00055.htm

- *From:* ML <ML@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Mon, 8 Sep 2008 20:22:09 -0700
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Dear friends

Thank you for all the inputs to this post.

The reason I'm keeping my P3 is I do not need something better, I just want a larger HD storage space.

Thus, I'm keeping my existing 30GB HD with XP SP3. Will either add an external or internal slave HD of 500GB, and use XP to partition the whole HD.

Regarding the "utility that attempts to access the disk using the BIOS's real mode driver" that might cause file corruption. Could you explain more. Do 3rd party tools like those disk defrag software for windows come under this?

Thanks.

"dg1261" wrote:

Andy's explanation is exactly right. Real mode and protected mode require different device drivers. The BIOS provides only a real mode driver. Once XP-SP2 kicks into protected mode and replaces the device driver with its own protected mode driver, the BIOS driver is out of the loop. The trick is getting it to boot in the first place so it gets to that point. That's the reason for keeping the OS partition entirely within the lower 137GB.

The "theoretical possibility of disk/file corruption" comes into play if you use any utility that attempts to access the disk using the BIOS's real mode driver, so you have to be careful what tools you use. Windows' native functions won't do that, so as long as the upper part of the disk is only accessed by Windows, you'll be okay.

"DL" <address@invalid> wrote in message
[news:%23\\$mh\\$08DJHA.4904@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:%23mh08DJHA.4904@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

Not according to a tech post I read, sometime ago, which stated there was a theoretical possibility of disk/file corruption.

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"Andy" <1@xxx> wrote in message
news:i8krb49ojvh67ptccla3e2n1msp8cvne2g@xxxxxxxxxxx

The only time the BIOS comes into play is during the boot process. If the BIOS has to access past the 137 GB point on the disk in order to boot Windows XP, then booting will fail. Once Windows XP starts to run, the CPU is switched to protected mode, and real mode BIOS code can no longer be executed.

If the 500 GB is installed as a second non-bootable drive, then Windows XP SP2 will be able to fully access the drive. If Windows XP is installed on a small partition below the 137 GB point on the 500 GB drive, Windows XP SP2 will be able to access the rest of the drive in a second partition.