

# Re: Problem installing SBS2003 on MSI 915P motherboard with SATA RAID

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*Source:*

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Windows/microsoft.public.windows.server.sbs/2005-08/msg02195.html>

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- *From:* "Karl Middleton" <nospam@xxxxxxxxxxx>
  - *Date:* Mon, 8 Aug 2005 17:13:17 +1000
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Jeff,

I am philosophically a bit more relaxed about using SATA in servers even if it is not normally a server technology. I have 4 sites on SATA and they tick along beautifully.

Having said that, your problem certainly is a strange one. When I get the unpredictable results you are seeing so early in the setup process I start looking at drivers. Have you confirmed that the base Windows 2003 has discovered all its devices and assigned a driver to them all IE: no yellow in Device Manager? Next, are all the drivers the most up to date from the manufacturer? Finally, are the drivers properly signed and on the Microsoft hardware compatibility list? I have used non signed drivers on servers before and had emotionally disturbing experiences as a consequence.

I did notice that your onboard RAID is SiI. I can definitely confirm beaucoup problems using SiI RAID controllers in a Windows SBS2003 server. You don't state which SiI chipset you have but I found consistent RAID errors causing BSOD, freezes, etc. I used an expansion SiI RAID 0/1 controller in a home SBS server and had to junk it.

Some of the MVPs on this site choose to go for the name brand industrial strength SCSI gear. I can vouch for the Adaptec 1200S SATA controller if your customer has a small site with modest needs.

Regards  
Karl from Oz

"Jeff Law" <JeffLaw@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message  
<news:08CE6A97-F879-4967-B9A4-79341B919B81@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

> Hi,

> I have been struggling with this problem, trying to narrow it down, for a  
> week now. Hopefully someone can point me in the right direction or give me  
> some clues as to whether it is possible to fix.

>

Re: Problem installing SBS2003 on MSI 915P motherboard with SATA RAID

- > I have a new server which I am trying to install SBS 2003 on. I have 2 x
- > 250GB SATA drives in it and am trying to use the motherboard RAID to
- > mirror
- > these disks.
- >
- > It appears that for some reason, the SBS setup process cannot understand
- > the
- > hard disks. During the DCPROMO part when asking for the Database, Log, and
- > Sysvol folders, the default values are: C:\NTDS, C:\NTDS, and C:\Sysvol,
- > when
- > normally they include the WIndows directory, eg C:\Windows\NTDS etc
- >
- > Not only that but I cant change the directories. Doesnt matter what I
- > enter
- > in the Change Path option, it is always rejected as containing invalid
- > characters. (By the way, this change path option does not display any
- > directory information in it where it normally does.)
- >
- > If I proceed with out changing these options, I get the same problem
- > trying
- > to change the location of the data volumes for the applications. Not quite
- > what I want.
- >
- > If I do a manual DCPROMO, the Database, Log, and Sysvol folders come up
- > with
- > what I call the correct default directories, ie C:\Windows\NTDS etc, and I
- > can change the volumes without a problem.
- >
- > If I disable the RAID on the motherboard and have two disks, then the SBS
- > installation behaves properly, so I am assuming that it is a problem with
- > the
- > RAID drivers somehow, but why does the standard DCPROMO work whereas the
- > one
- > in the SBS setup doesnt?
- >
- > The drivers I am using are the Windows 2003 ones.
- >
- > Any ideas here gratefully accepted.
- > Jeff

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• *Follow-Ups:*

- ◆ **Re: Problem installing SBS2003 on MSI 915P motherboard with SATA R**  
◇ From: Jeff Law

• *References:*

- ◆ **Problem installing SBS2003 on MSI 915P motherboard with SATA RAID**

Re: Problem installing SBS2003 on MSI 915P motherboard with SATA RAID

◇ *From:* Jeff Law

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