

Re: XP footprint on the new class of ultra low cost PCs

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Windows/microsoft.public.windowsupdate/2008-07/msg00010.html>

- *From:* "PA Bear [MS MVP]" <PABearMVP@xxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Mon, 30 Jun 2008 18:14:34 -0400
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One (1) post will suffice. Thank you.

hjacobson wrote:

On Jun 15, 12:25 pm, "Shenan Stanley" <newshel...@xxxxxxxxx> wrote:
<snip>

If you are concerned over less than 5GB of space total at any given time being freed up on your hard disk drive – then something is wrong and you would be better off spending a little and putting in a drive that is likely 3–8 times as large as what you have not and not concerning yourself over such a small amount of space OR you seriously need to consider what you really need on the system and what should be archived.

<snip>

How little space can a fully functional WindowsXP installation really take up – with a fully functional office suite, multiple Internet browsers, a full (non–native) email client, antivirus, CD/DVD burning application, PDF reader and creation applications, a decent image manipulation/creation application, a good compression utility and generally all the common Internet plugins...? About 4GB of space. And everything but WindowsXP Professional (in this case) is freeware.

<snip>

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Shenan Stanley
MS–MVP

With the advent of "netbooks" a.k.a. ultralow–cost PCs, Microsoft committed to support XP on these machines through January 2010
<http://www.microsoft.com/presspass/press/2008/jun08/06-03ComputexPR.mspx>.
The first popular netbook, the ASUS eeePC's have small solid state

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disk (SSD) drives 4 – 8 GB in size and an SD card slot

I am Technology Director of a public charter school in Massachusetts, grades 7 – 12. It makes good sense to configure netbooks for use in the academic environment. For that reason I am experimenting with an ASUS eeePC 701. This eeePC has a 4 GB SSD and an 8 GB SDHC card configured as the 2nd fixed disk drive.

I slimmed down, that is, removed extraneous functions from XP with SP3 using nLite <http://www.nliteos.com/>. The operating system and basic applications occupy about 2.5 GB of the 4 GB SSD. This is not a fully functional install, merely the necessary functions required in our academic environment. Basic applications include: Adobe Reader, Adobe Flash, Mozilla Thunderbird, Symantec Endpoint Protection. Acronis True Image Echo Workstation is also installed for image backup.

The school uses Microsoft Office. We looked into OpenOffice and judged its user interface, rendering, and storing of office documents imperfect. I configured Office to install on the D: drive. The Office application with only the functionality required by the school occupies under 400 MB. The D:\MSOCache occupies about 700 MB.

The issue I'm now working on is redirecting or installing certain XP folders to the D: drive.

To wit: The folder C:\WINDOWS\Installer. The folder is currently almost 800 MB. I've tried moving the folder to D:\WINDOWS\Installer, replacing the original folder with a symbolic link using Sysinternals junction <http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/sysinternals/bb896768.aspx>.

Windows Update and Windows Installer 3.1 do not "play well" with the symbolic link C:\WINDOWS\Installer --> D:\WINDOWS\Installer. The symbolic link is removed, to be replaced with a folder which is then populated with the update du jour or install du jour.

If/when this problem is resolved we will have the basic configuration for introducing netbooks in our school.

Harry Jacobson