System Backup for Windows XP

Note: I have NEVER used the backup and restore for XP functions noted below for XP. I have used the Windows backup in Windows 95 and 98 and was not happy with it. I use the backup described in the Jmaxbits Software tip "Backup and Restore". Jmax

(**More info from Microsoft.com:** [Click here: How to use the Backup utility to back up files and folders in Windows XP Home Edition](#))

HOW TO: Install Backup from the Windows XP Home Edition CD-ROM

The Backup utility is not included in the default installation of Windows XP Home Edition. The Backup icon is not present on the Start menu in Windows XP Home Edition, nor is Backup listed in Add Remove Programs for Windows XP Home edition.

To manually install Backup:

Double-click the Ntbackup.msi file in the following location on the Windows XP Home Edition CD-ROM to start a wizard that installs Backup: CD-ROM Drive :\VALUEADD\MSFT\NTBACKUP. When the wizard is complete, click Finish.

An Error Message Is Displayed When You Attempt to Use the Automated System Recovery Wizard

When you attempt to use the ASR Wizard on Windows XP Home Edition, you may receive the following error message:

Backup Utility: The files for recovery diskette could not be created. The operation was cancelled.

To work around this behavior, access the Automated System Restore Wizard:

1. Install Backup Utility for Windows on the Microsoft Windows XP Home Edition CD-ROM. Follow these steps to install Backup Utility for Windows:

    a. Double-click the Ntbackup.msi file in the following location on the Windows XP Home Edition CD:

         CD-ROM Drive :\Valueadd\MSFT\Ntbackup

    b. When the installation wizard is complete, click **Finish** .

2. Click **Start** and, then click **All Programs** .
3. Point to **Accessories** , point to **System Tools** and then click **Backup** on the **All Programs** menu.

4. Click the **Advanced Mode** link on the first screen of the Backup and Restore Wizard.
5. On the **Backup Utility** dialog box, click the **Automated System Recovery Wizard** button.

NOTE : ASR does not function and is not supported on Windows XP Home edition.

The ASR Wizard may create the floppy disks and a backup file (Backup.bkf). The floppy disks, however, cannot start the ASR process in Windows XP Home Edition if they are used after a catastrophic system failure.

For catastrophic malfunctions that result in the need for total data recovery, you must use the following steps for the recovery process (which assumes that a full backup had been performed a short period of time prior to the equipment failure and subsequent data loss):

1. Manually reinstall Windows XP from the installation media.
2. Install Ntbackp from the Value add folder of the Windows XP installation CD-ROM.
3. Use Ntbackup to restore the data by using the backup set that had been created prior to the system failure.

The error message in the Symptoms section of this article is not always displayed. When the error message is not displayed, you can create a backup set with ASR. In the situation where a backup set is created with ASR, the startup floppy disks that are created to use with ASR do not work with Windows XP Home Edition.

The backup set is still valid. You can recover the data set that had been created with the ASR Wizard by proceeding as if the data set had been created with Ntbackup.

Use Backup to Back Up Files and Folders on Your Computer

The Backup tool in Windows XP helps you protect your data in case your hard disk fails or files are accidentally erased. By using Backup, you can create a duplicate copy of all of the data on your hard disk and then archive it on another storage device, such as a hard disk or a tape.

If the original data on your hard disk is accidentally erased or overwritten, or becomes inaccessible because of a hard-disk malfunction, you can easily restore the data from the disk or archived copy by using the Restore Wizard or Automated System Recovery Wizard.

How to Back Up Files and Folders

Click Start , point to All Programs , point to Accessories , point to System Tools , and then click Backup. The Backup or Restore Wizard starts. Click Advanced Mode. Click the Backup tab. On the Job menu, click New.

Select the check boxes for the drives that you want to back up. If you want to be more specific in your selections, expand the drive that you want, and then click the check boxes for the files or folders that you want.

Select the System State check box

NOTE: If you want to back up your system settings as well as your data files, you should back up all the data on your computer plus the System State data, which includes such things as the registry, the COM+ class registration database, files under Windows File Protection, and boot files.

In the Backup destination list, click the backup destination that you want to use.

If you clicked File in the previous step, type the full path and file name that you want in the Backup media or file name box. Note that you can also specify a network share as a destination for the backup file. Click Start Backup . The Backup Job Information dialog box appears. Under If the media already contains backups, use one of the following steps:

If you want to append this backup to previous backups, click Append this backup to the media.
If you want to overwrite previous backups with this backup, click Replace the data on the media with this backup .
Click Advanced. Select the Verify data after backup check box.

In the Backup Type box, click the type of backup that you want. When you click a backup type, a description of that backup type is displayed under "Description." Click OK , and then click Start Backup . A Backup Progress dialog box appears, and the backup starts. When the backup is complete, click Close.

Use Backup to Restore Files and Folders on Your Computer

Click Start , point to All Programs , point to Accessories , point to System Tools , and then click Backup . The Backup or Restore Wizard starts. Click Advanced Mode. Click the Restore and Manage Media tab. Use one of the following steps:

If you want to restore from a backup file, expand File, and then expand the backup file that you want. For example, expand Backup.bkf created 01/01/2002 at 1:15 PM . Backup includes the date and time of the backup as part of the file name by default.

If you want to restore from a tape backup, expand the tape device that you want (for example, Travan), and then expand the media name that you want. For example, expand Media created 01/01/2002 1:15 PM .

Select the check boxes for the folders that you want to restore. If you want to be more specific in your selections, double-click the folder that you want, and then select the check boxes for the files or folders that you want to restore.

If you are restoring the entire operating system, select the System State check box.

NOTE: If you want to restore the operating system as well as your data files, you should restore the System State data, which includes such things as the registry, the COM+ class registration database, files under Windows File Protection, and boot files.

In the Restore files to box, use one of the following steps:

Click Original location if you want to restore the files to the location from which you backed them up. Use this selection when you restore the entire computer.

Click Alternate location if you want to restore a file or files to another location on the hard disk. Type the location that you want in the Alternate location box. Use this selection to prevent the restore operation from overwriting existing files on your computer.

Click Single folder if you want to restore a file or files to a single folder on the hard disk. Type the location that you want in the Alternate location box. Use this selection to separate the restored files or folders from the rest of the files on the hard disk. On the Tools menu, click Options.

Click the method that you want Backup to use when it restores a file that is already on the computer, and then click OK. Backup uses this selection to determine whether to overwrite an existing file only when it restores a file in a folder that contains the existing file. **NOTE:** If you are restoring the operating system, click Always replace the file on my computer. Click Start Restore. If the following message appears, click OK if you want to restore the System State information with the selected backup:

Warning: Restoring System State will always overwrite current System State unless restoring to an alternate location.

In the Confirm Restore prompt that appears, click OK . A Restore Progress dialog box appears, and the restore operation starts. When the restore process is complete, click Close. If you are prompted to restart the computer, click Yes.

Cannot Restore Backups That You Create in Windows 95, Windows 98, or Windows Me with the Windows XP Ntbackup Tool

To resolve this behavior, restore the data from the tape or file by using Msbackup on a computer that is running Windows 95, Windows 98, or Windows Me.