

XP Format and Recovery

(Notes from Mike at MMD Computers)

Reasons for Formatting:

- Severe Spyware Related Issues
- Unstable, System Crashing
- Newly Acquired Used System
- Virus Infected System
- Missing System Files (Repair Install)

Preparation for Formatting:

- Backup All Important Data
 - ✓ Financial Data (Quicken, Turbo Tax, Money)
 - ✓ Pictures & Documents (Family Tree Maker, My Pictures)
 - ✓ Anything You Can't Afford to Lose
- Programs Cannot Be Backed Up
 - ✓ Make Sure You Have All Your Reinstallation Software CDs (ex.MSOffice, Photo Elements,etc that you've added to your computer)
 - ✓ Formatting Your Hard Drive will remove All Data
 - ✓ Windows XP Recovery disk Does NOT install MSOffice or other Programs that were NOT on the computer from factory.

Methods of Backup

- Floppy Disks (not advised, requires too many)
- Zip Drives
- USB Flash Drives e.g. Lexar, Pny or SanDisk
- CD or DVD Burner Drive
- External Hard Drive
- Online Storage

Before Formatting

- Have ready Windows Operating System Install CD or Recovery CD, Drivers on a CD or on a Floppy disk and All Application Install CDs
- Have the Certificate of Authenticity Sticker or Key CD # and computer manual (If you do not have the above, it is not recommended to proceed with format)
- Some PC manufacturers store a Restore Image on a partition in your hard drive, check with manufacturer on how to access and use this Restore Image. It is usually stored as Drive D: If you doubleclick MY COMPUTER you will see the Recovery drive if there is one on your computer.

Format Process

(The format process differs on each make and model of a home pc, so the following may not apply to your particular PC.)

- Go into BIOS & check that first boot device is set to the CD-ROM.

- Insert Windows XP or Recovery CD into the CD-Rom drive and press CTRL+ALT+Del to reboot.
- When computer boots up, it will ask to boot from cd. Press any key to launch setup.
- Setup starts a blue screen, then it will ask you to install XP. Press ENTER, click AGREE to License, press F8, choose ESC for a fresh install or R to repair install(this is used to replace missing or damaged files in XP)
- Choose C: Partition and press ENTER.
- Choose Format in NTFS Quick
- When formatting is done, setup will automatically start copying files.
- Next window is regional & language settings.
- Next window asks for Name & Organization (leave Org blank if you like).
- Next enter the Product Key located in your Certificate of Authenticity
- Next Name your PC for Network Identification, e.g. Jane PC
- Enter Area Code
- Choose Next and make sure date and time and time zone are correct
- Next dialogue box will ask for Resolution
- Windows will now start, input User Names
- Press Next, and Activate if it is asked
- You are now in Windows. Install drivers
- IF necessary locate needed drivers at the PC manufacturers website, download and install.

Q: How do I format my hard drive and reinstall Windows XP on my hard drive?

A. There are several steps, however please note that ALL DATA WILL BE DELETED from your hard drive if you FORMAT the drive. This walk thru uses pop open windows so please disengage your pop up killer software for this process if you use Popup Killer.

There are two ways to do this. Here's the first. if it doesn't work, use Method #2

Ok here goes...

Method #1

1) With Windows XP, you need to figure out which file system you have on your hard drive - either NTFS or FAT32. Once you have established this go to step 2a or 2b.

2a) If you have NTFS, you need to wipe the drive with a special technique. [Click here to learn that.](#)

2b) If you have FAT32, you need to wipe the drive with a special technique. [Click here to learn that.](#)

3) Next you need to reinstall Windows XP. Reboot your computer with the Windows XP setup CD in the CDROM and let it boot into the Windows Setup screen. Let it load all the drivers. Then choose option 1 and start the clean installation. When it is done, reboot the computer.

Method #2-----

Method #1 for reformatting and reinstalling Windows XP does not work for you, try this instead:

Insert the Windows XP Install CD-ROM into your CD-ROM drive or DVD-ROM drive, or insert the first Windows XP Setup boot disk into the floppy disk drive if you are starting from Setup boot disks, and then restart the computer.

NOTE: To start your computer from the Windows XP CD-ROM or from the Setup boot disk, your computer must be configured to start from the CD-ROM drive or DVD-ROM drive or the floppy disk drive.

In some cases, you may have to modify your computer's BIOS settings to do this. ([Learn how here.](#))

(If you are starting from the Windows XP Setup boot disks, insert each of the additional disks when you are prompted, and then press ENTER to continue after inserting each disk.)

At the Welcome to Setup page, press ENTER to continue.

Press F8 to accept the Windows XP Licensing Agreement.

If an existing Windows XP installation is detected, you are prompted to repair it. Press ESC (do not repair).

All existing partitions and unpartitioned spaces are listed for each physical hard disk. Use the arrow keys to select the partition or unpartitioned space where you want to create a new partition, and then press D to delete an existing partition or press C to create a new partition using unpartitioned space.

If you press D to delete an existing partition, you must then press L (or press ENTER, and then press L if it is the System partition) to confirm that you want to delete the partition. Repeat this process for each of the existing partitions that you want to use for the new partition.

When all the partitions are deleted, you can then select the resulting unpartitioned space and then press C to create the new partition.

Type the size (in megabytes, or MB) that you want to use for the new partition, and then press ENTER, or just press ENTER to create the partition using the maximum size.

If you want to install Windows XP, use the arrow keys to select the partition you want to install Windows XP on, and then press ENTER.

Select the format option that you want to use for the partition, and then press ENTER. The options are::

- * Format the partition by using the NTFS file system (Quick)
- * Format the partition by using the FAT file system (Quick)
- * Format the partition by using the NTFS file system
- * Format the partition by using the FAT file system

You may also see:

- * Leave the current file system intact (no changes)

Most people will want to choose: "Format the partition by using the NTFS file system".

After Setup formats the partition, follow the on-screen instructions to continue Setup until Windows XP fully installs.

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