

## Re: [OT] Any XP experts around?

**Source:** <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.electronics.design/2004-10/3437.html>

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**From:** Roy Battell ([news\\_at\\_vutrax666.co.uk](mailto:news_at_vutrax666.co.uk))

**Date:** 10/12/04

Date: Tue, 12 Oct 2004 12:46:41 +0100

In article <21vmm05eruvh3jtethb96q2gf2082uu0fn@4ax.com>, Terry Pinnell <terrypinDELETE@THESEdial.pipex.com> writes  
>c\_bielek@hotmail.com (classd101) wrote:  
>  
>>Terry Pinnell <terrypinDELETE@THESEdial.pipex.com> wrote in message news:<niik  
>>m09j6046ac27bsfip4052kms8agbpq@4ax.com>...  
>>> davexnet02 <davexnetzerotwo@hooya!.com> wrote:  
>>>  
>>> >snip  
>>  
>>> >"System" is the partition where XP initially loads and where the  
>>> >NTLDR, ntdetect.com and boot.ini live, while "boot" is the partition  
>>> >you're in once up and running.  
>>  
>>  
>>Talk about counter intuitive  
>  
>My feelings exactly – small wonder I can't get my mind around it!  
>  
>I wouldn't care, but sadly I think I was premature in reporting the  
>issue resolved. Here's the deal...  
>  
>I've booted to XP Home Edition, the 'first' of my multi-boot options.  
>This is what my system looks like according to XP Disk Management:  
><http://www.terrypin.dial.pipex.com/Misc/Sep12-XP.gif>  
>  
>So, from that, can someone please tell me definitively what partition  
>I am running in? That's in the sense of Dave's phrase "...the  
>partition you're in once up and running."  
>  
>My interpretation is that I'm plainly 'in' E, instead of C where I  
>want to be. That's based on that 'Active' annotation XP shows against  
>E.  
>  
>Why do I care? I want to be back in \*exactly\* the same state I've been  
>in for the last 2 years. C was exclusively my system and boot  
>partition. No E involved at all. E was just sitting patiently on my  
>2nd HD until some emergency (or experiment) prompted me to boot to it

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>instead. So, as I didn't normally use the files on F either, only my  
>first HD would actually be being accessed. The second HD (XP calls it  
>Disk 1!) would just be spinning passively. That's a mental picture  
>with which I'm comfortable. And I want it back. Can anyone help me do  
>so – PLEASE!  
>  
>BTW, aren't PCs wonderful?  
>  
Terry,

Sound like a real cry for help.  
You can't change the letter designation for the current Windows  
drive so you have a bit of a gotcha.

Sounds to me like something has messed about with your boot.ini  
on Disk 1 (Primary Master if IDE) that determines which system  
is booted. It specifies the disk (counting from 0 rather than 1  
just to help the confusion), and the partition (counting from 1).

So a typical simple system boot.ini looks like (copied from  
wifes machine):–

```
[boot loader]
timeout=30
default=multi(0)disk(0)rdisk(0)partition(1)\WINDOWS
[operating systems]
multi(0)disk(0)rdisk(0)partition(1)\WINDOWS="Microsoft ...
    ... Windows XP Home Edition" /fastdetect /NoExecute=OptIn
```

... <newline> ... means one long line

The bit in "Micro ... edition" is just title of the menu entry.

I suggest you do the following:–

>From the Microsoft Knowledge base get and print Article ID : Q305595  
How To Create a Boot Disk for an NTFS or FAT Partition in Windows XP

Make a boot disk (or more) and make sure it works.  
(Make more than one and you can use it for boot testing)

Now you can safely play about with boot.ini in the first  
windows partition (disk 1 Partition 1 in the management listing):–

>From a CMD shell (XPs excuse for a DOS Window) type  
attrib -h -s -r X:\boot.ini  
to make the file editable. Replace X: with whatever drive letter  
is the current drive letter for the first partition.

You can now edit X:\boot.ini with NOTEPAD or any plain  
text editor and change the disk and partition numbers

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as required, and try them out. You can also build a menu  
to try out more than one per edit.  
As an example mine looks like this:-

```
[boot loader]
timeout=10
default=multi(0)disk(0)rdisk(0)partition(3)\WINDOWS
[operating systems]
multi(0)disk(0)rdisk(0)partition(3)\WINDOWS="Microsoft Windows
... XP Professional" /fastdetect /NoExecute=OptIn
C:\HDA1HDB7.LIN="Linux Fedora Core 2 32 Bit (Boot hda1 for hdb7)"
multi(0)disk(0)rdisk(0)partition(1)\WINDOWS="Emergency XP Pro Prt 1"
multi(0)disk(0)rdisk(0)partition(2)\WINDOWS="Emergency XP Pro Prt 2"
multi(0)disk(0)rdisk(0)partition(3)\WINDOWS="Emergency XP Pro Prt 3"
multi(0)disk(0)rdisk(2)partition(2)\WINDOWS="Microsoft Windows
.... XP Professional (11JUL04)" /fastdetect
C:\CMDCONS\BOOTSECT.DAT="Microsoft Windows Recovery Console" /cmdcons
```

My first windows partition is No 3 because 1 and 2 are Linux  
boot partitions – such are the delights of dual system CAD  
software development.

Hope this is of some help – I've tried to be accurate but sods  
law rules the universe.

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Roy Battell.

To use this address remove the digits included to remove Spam ...

Mail: [news@vutrax666.co.uk](mailto:news@vutrax666.co.uk)

URL: <http://www.vutrax.co.uk> (Main UK site for Vutrax CAD)

<http://www.protonique.com/vutrax> (Central Europe Mirror)

(Downloadable Vutrax CAD system for Windows 95 though XP and  
modern Linux Distros. FREE up to 256 pins)