

Re: OT: Hard disk mirror with Paragon on USB stick?

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- *From:* Joerg <notthisjoergsch@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Mon, 15 Dec 2008 16:41:44 -0800
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Charlie E. wrote:

On Mon, 15 Dec 2008 08:45:26 -0800, Joerg
<notthisjoergsch@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

Charlie E. wrote:

On Fri, 12 Dec 2008 08:30:21 -0800, Joerg
<notthisjoergsch@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

Martin Brown wrote:

Joerg wrote:

Hello All,

The hard
drive in my
wife's
laptop
seems to be
on its last
leg. Motor
spools up to
less than
half the rpm
and stays
there (pretty
constantly).
After an
hour of
warm-up a
power cycle
usually
brings it to
life at full

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rpm. Sound
like it'll
croak soon.
No XP
disks came
with this
machine,
meaning I
must mirror
:-(

Are you sure there isn't a
"system restore" CD or
something with words
to that effect that includes a
custom version of Doze that
will only
work with that brand /
model of portable PC and is
preconfigured?
(NB it may not show any
obvious MS markings even
for main brands)

A lot of disks came with it but not that one.
There were these disks:

Client drivers
WordPerfect
DVD drivers
Some Cyberlink DVD stuff
Microsoft Money

If you have a valid
activation code for XP
registered to this machine
you should in principle at
least be able to reinstall
from any XP CD
with the usual pain and
suffering of installing FP1,
FP2 and FP3 too.

There is a really long MS XP product key
number but no XP CD.

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Wise to do the first two
offline, a pre FP1 version of
XP would not
last long enough to do
anything on the internet
these days before it
was harvested by a botnet.

I tried
installing
"Paragon
Drive
Backup 9.0
Express" on
a USB stick
but it must
have written
DLLs to
this PC's
drive. Darn.
Meaning it
does not
start off a
USB stick.
But it has to
because the
laptop will
have to get
off the
ground with
a
completely
empty new
hard drive.

Has anyone
ever
successfully
run Paragon
off a USB
stick? Or a
CD?

It ought to work provided
that you booted from the
USB stick or CD.
Otherwise all sorts of
registry settings will end up
in the machine
registry of the OS that
booted the system. The days

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when you could
copy a program onto
removable media and expect
it to run are long
gone.

I am afraid it did those registry entries
without asking when I installed it on the
stick.

If you count your time into
the equation the quickest
cheapest
solution is buy a suitably big
external HD and mirror the
old portable
drive onto it with Paragon
already installed on the
portable. Make the
external HD the primary
boot media to check it and
then remove and
replace the half dead drive.
Mirror it back and you are
done – at
least in theory.

Afraid it's too late. The laptop did not get off
the ground this morning. The equivalent of
finding a huge puddle of transmission fluid
under your car :-(

If the USB drive is big
enough you could do the
same with that but
64GB thumbnail drives are
still a bit pricy so it's more
expensive.

And even then it may still
be more cost effective to
buy a new
portable. The cute 10" micro
laptops are going for about
£250 here for

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Xmas, and their bigger
cousins for about £100 more
for a decent
specimen.

I just bought a \$500 version, arrived two
days ago. Samsung NC-10, typed an OO
document yesterday night. Remaining
battery capacity 87%. Sweet!

George,
Just a question on your NC-10. How are the speakers, if any,
on it?
My wife might be needing a new machine soon, but she has
to have
decent sound. She's blind, you see, and does everything
through a
screen reader...

Sorry to hear that. At least your wife has a tech-savvy husband who can find
the best tools for her. Does she have a guide dog? (We sometimes help
raising them)

I don't use my PCs for audio much, only CAD, writing specs and such so I
don't know how audio should sound on a PC. Speech comes over quite well
(just tried pastor's sermon). Also tried the country station WSM Online and it
sounds ok. But as expected low frequencies don't sound too great considering
the tiny speakers in there. Also not very loud so in a noisy environment this
machine might not work for her.

I closed my eyes and tried to feel my way across the keyboard. The J has the
usual bar. It can't be felt as pronounced as on other keyboards because the
NC-10 keys are rounded in front. But I guess you could add some material
there if needed so it becomes more recognizable. The machine is so small
that I always felt its corners so that might be a good guidance as well.

The camera in the NC-10 is quite good, located right above the screen. I held
a receipt in front of it and the result appears to be good enough for a decent
OCR program to extract the information. Depends on the light situation, of
course. Wish they had placed a couple LEDs there.

There is also integrated Bluetooth. I cannot try that out because I don't have
any Bluetooth devices (yet) but this could provide untethered audio transfer to
an ear set or head set.

Some things in its electronic manual are a bit strange. For example, it says
there is a multi card slot but other than a plastic insert that won't come out I
don't see anything there.

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What convinced me to buy this netbook is the battery runtime. I have no idea what a spare would cost but it's been well over 4h now and the battery manager shows 45% remaining. It'll break the old Compaq Contura's 6h benchmark although that took the computer industry about 1.5 decades.

Sounds like it might work for her. She doesn't need it real loud, but needs fairly clean speech from the screen reader. She has small hands. so likes smaller keyboards. Doesn't need the camera, but might find a use for the bluetooth stuff...

The audio is pretty crisp and easy to understand, certainly for something like books on tape (or on data in this case). Remember that this and most other netbooks do not have an internal CD/DVD drive. And I haven't figured out yet whether it has a multi-card slot and if so, how to open it.

The camera is standard. Could come in quite handy if you are gone and she wants you to take a quick look at something.

Another advantage of this netbook in comparison to other budget machines is the huge hard disk space. It has a 160GB drive which by default gets partitioned into two 80GB sections. You can't have that with silicon disks (yet). So your wife could store lots of stuff one there and then listen to it out in the backyard or somewhere away from the screen reader. From a nearly blind friend I remember those as rather big machines.

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Regards, Joerg

<http://www.analogconsultants.com/>

"gmail" domain blocked because of excessive spam.
Use another domain or send PM.

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