

Re: Hard drive repair (longish)

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.electronics.repair/2005-03/2081.html>

From: PlainBill (*PlainBill47_at_yahoo.com*)

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On Fri, 25 Mar 2005 00:51:37 GMT, Ken Weitzel <kweitzel@shaw.ca> wrote:

>

>

>PlainBill wrote:

>> Well, I really blew it this time. About a month ago I replaced my 120
>> gig hard drive with a new 200 Gig Maxtor, model # 6B200P. In
>> violation of my common sense, I did NOT keep the old drive as a
>> backup. Well, the new drive went belly up last week – it wouldn't
>> even spin up. Some of the stuff on the drive is easily replaceable,
>> but many of the pictures of my Granddaughter cannot be replaced.

>>

>> I requested an advance replacement from Maxtor, and when it arrived I
>> tried to repair the bad drive by swapping the electronics boards. I
>> verified these had identical part numbers. This had a limited success:
>> The new hda does not spin up with the old electronics board; the old
>> hda DOES spin up with the new board. However, the drive does not
>> properly report it's size. The new drive reports it is 203.9 Gig; the
>> new electronics board with the old hda reports it's size as 250 Gig,
>> then generates POST errors.

>>

>> At this point I can restore the electronics boards to the proper hdas
>> and return the old drive to satisfy the terms of the advance
>> replacement, since I have not altered anything. The last option I am
>> considering is a part which appears to be a SST Serial flash chip. It
>> should be possible to swap these between boards if I unsolder with
>> chip-quik, but I'm not looking forward to it.

>>

>> Does anyone have any experience with these drives, or any advice to
>> give?

>>

>> PlainBill

>

>Hi PlainBill...

>

>Just a shot in the dark with the first thought that comes
>to mind, if I may?

>

>*Would it be worth the effort to try telling the old drive/new*

>*electronics combo how big it is? Instead of letting it tell*

>*bios?*

>

>*Good luck recovering the pics of your grand daughter's; know*

>*it would devastate me...*

>

>*Ken*

Ken,

That would be the ideal solution – while I can solder, I'm a lot better working with an IC with the pins on .1" centers than smt parts – not that there's anything wrong with smt. Now if you would happen to know of a source for the software used to program these drives...

PlainBill