

Re: second hard drive install with XP

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- *From:* "Ed Chait" <edchait4remove@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Sun, 12 Mar 2006 21:15:27 GMT
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"Bob" <nottooslow@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
news:MPG.1e7e2fa61c73a66c9897a8@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

In article <[okpOf.6547\\$F56.3612@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:okpOf.6547$F56.3612@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)>, edchait4remove@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx says...

Never mind, I figured it out.

I was right clicking on the wrong thing in "disk management."

ed, and there was much dancing and rejoicing

Ed,

What's a dynamic disk??? Is it unique to media center?

Bob/Texas

No, Windows 2000, XP Pro, and media center edition (which is basically XP Pro) also has the option to use dynamic disks. XP Home edition does not.

Converting Basic Disks to Dynamic Disks

Up to this point everything that has been discussed in this article has related to Basic disks, but Windows XP professional supports another type of disk structure called a Dynamic disk. Dynamic disks first appeared in Windows 2000 and are only compatible with Windows 2000 and Windows XP Professional operating systems. If you're running Windows XP Home Edition the option for Dynamic disks is unavailable.

Throughout this article we've spent a substantial amount of time talking

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about primary partitions, extended partitions, and logical drives. A Dynamic drive contains dynamic volumes rather than partitions, making it possible to have an unlimited number of logical drives. Another big difference between basic and dynamic disks is there is no Master Boot Record (MBR) on a dynamic disk. Instead, it stores the layout of the disk volumes in a database stored on the last 1 MB of the disk.

Other than the fact dynamic volumes are used instead of partitions, why would you consider creating or converting a basic disk to a dynamic disk? Dynamic disks allow you to create a number of different disk structures that aren't available on basic disks. For example;

- a.. Simple Volume – A dynamic volume that's composed of disk space from a single dynamic disk. Not fault-tolerant but can be mirrored.
- b.. Spanned Volume – A dynamic volume that uses disk space on more than one physical disk. If there is more than one dynamic disk the size of the spanned volume can be increased by extending it onto the additional dynamic disk.
- c.. Striped Volume – A dynamic volume that stores data in stripes across two or more physical hard drives. Striped volumes are noted for very fast performance but the downside, which can be substantial, is that if one of the disks in the stripe set fails the entire volume is lost.
- d.. Mirrored Volume – A volume that duplicates the data on two physical disks. The identical volumes are called mirrors. Since the data is mirrored on a different disk, if one disk fails the system will switch to the mirror and remain functional. Mirrored volumes are also fault-tolerant.
- e.. RAID-5 Volume – This is a bit of a departure from the other types of volumes in that it requires at least three hard disks to implement, but basically it consists of data and parity sets that are striped across multiple hard disks. If one of the disks in a RAID-5 volume fails, XP can recreate the failed portion by using the data and parity information from the remaining disks in the volume.

I'll be the first to tell you that dynamic disks aren't for everybody. They have a learning curve and the chances of screwing something up is substantially higher than working with basic disks. Because some of the most useful disk structures require multiple hard drives there is the additional expense as well as the risk associated with data loss in case of a drive failure. A comprehensive backup strategy to media that can handle the size of data sets that are created is essential. Until you've experimented with dynamic disks to learn and understand their uniqueness I wouldn't recommend they be used to the exclusion of basic disks.