

TITLE: Restoring a computer after formatting or replacing the hard disk.

Topic

This document explains how to restore an entire PC that has changed partition numbers.

Discussion:**Retrospect**

After replacing or reformatting the hard disk in a Windows PC, users may experience trouble booting the computer (invalid boot.ini file error) following a complete system restore or Disaster Recovery (DR).

An error may display that says "Windows could not start because of a computer disk hardware configuration problem. Could not read from the selected boot disk. Check boot path and disk hardware"

Microsoft details information on this error at:

<http://support.microsoft.com/default.aspx?scid=kb;en-us;314477>

In a default system install (out of the box), the Dell hard drives have a 31MB FAT partition (EISA Configuration). This partition does not have a drive letter and does not get backed up by Retrospect. As a result, if the C: drive is re-formatted during a Disaster Recovery, this 31MB partition is lost. The boot.ini file contained on the backup (and later restored) references two partitions rather than just one.

To work around this problem:

1. Install Windows 2000 or XP
2. Install Retrospect
3. Find or recreate the Backup Set catalog file
4. Within Windows Explorer show hidden files ? Tools> Folder Options> View>

Check: Show Hidden files and folders

Uncheck: Hide extensions for known file types and Hide protected operating system files

5. Locate the boot.ini file on the hard disk. Make a copy of the boot.ini file to floppy disk
6. Launch Retrospect
7. Run Restore Entire Volume
8. Before Reboot, replace the restored the boot.ini file on C: with the one from the floppy disk.
9. Reboot.

The following website also offers some helpful tips:

<http://www.computerhope.com/issues/ch000648.htm>

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