# **Clone Windows XP boot partition**

#### Hardware setup

This short howto guide was setup to handle 2 hdd configured as mirrored drives through built-in nVidia 590 SLI chipset. Since the nVidia drivers are not included in Windows XP SP2 setup CD, there are special steps necessary to get a multi-boot environment going.

#### Requirements

- Windows XP SP2
- Boot-US 2.1.6
- nLite / nLite Windows XP SP2 boot disk with necessary drivers
- Acronis Truelmage 9.0

## Initial install

The easiest way for the initial install is to use the BIOS' IDE emulation for the SATA drive and install the basic operating system on a separate harddisk not part of a raid set. Except the basic Windows XP, install an imaging software. I use TrueImage 9.0, but I would expect that any other imaging software would do, as long as it is possible to backup and restore the actual system partition.

- 1. Install Windows XP SP2
- 2. Install Acronis Truelmage 9.0
- 3. Backup the system partition just created on the single hdd with Truelmage
- 4. Restore to the 2 mirrored hdd with Truelmage
- 5. Disconnect the single hdd

It might be possible to install Windows on 1 of the mirrored hdd before setting up the mirror raid, and then mirroring from the running system partition, but I haven't tried this approach.

## Initial clone

- 1. disable Boot-US if it was installed before, then reboot
- Backup and then delete registry key HKLM/SYSTEM/MountedDevices. This is necessary to have XP reassign the devices information when booting from the cloned system partition for the first time.
- 3. Backup the system partition on the mirror with TrueImage
- 4. Restore the registry key by executing the backup file created in 2.
- 5. Create a new partition on the mirror
- 6. Restore the system partition on the mirror's second partition with Truelmage
- 7. Install Boot-US with "true hide" option for the 2 system partitions
- 8. Reboot into the newly created system partition
- 9. modify C:\boot.ini to reflect the correct partition information
- 10. reboot into your nLite Windows XP SP2 CD which contains the drivers to the nVidia chipset (to

access the raid)

- 11. select to install XP on the system partition which is currently active (not hidden by Boot-US)
- 12. DO NOT install XP, but abort installation on the screen asking for formatting the file system. This step is necessary to install a genuine MBR, as Boot-US' partition information was corrupted through the cloning.
- 13. reboot again into the active partition
- 14. re-install Boot-US with "true hide" option

## Clone on existing XP partition

In the following steps, XP-source means the XP install you want to clone, XP-dest means the XP install you want to overwrite with the clone.

- 1. Boot-US must be installed to differentiate between the 2 XP installs.
- 2. Boot into XP-source
- 3. backup XP-source and delete registry key HKLM/SYSTEM/MountedDevices. This is necessary to have XP reassign the devices information when booting from the cloned system partition for the first time.
- 4. Backup XP-source with Truelmage
- 5. Restore the registry key by executing the backup file created in 2.
- 6. Reboot into XP-dest
- 7. Restore XP-dest with the image from XP-source. The restore will require a reboot.
- 8. After finishing the restore, reboot into XP-dest, which now contains the XP-source clone
- 9. modify C:\boot.ini to reflect the correct partition information
- 10. reboot into your nLite Windows XP SP2 CD which contains the drivers to the nVidia chipset (to access the raid)
- 11. select to install XP on the system partition which is currently active (not hidden by Boot-US)
- 12. DO NOT install XP, but abort installation on the screen asking for formatting the file system. This step is necessary to install a genuine MBR, as Boot-US' partition information was corrupted through the cloning.
- 13. reboot again into the active partition
- 14. re-install Boot-US with "true hide" option

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