

## Re: How workable is Vista?

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*Source:* <http://coding.derkeiler.com/Archive/General/comp.arch.embedded/2008-06/msg00821.html>

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- *From:* Guy Macon <<http://www.guymacon.com/>>
  - *Date:* Sat, 21 Jun 2008 16:22:53 +0000
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Jonathan Kirwan wrote:

Guy Macon <<http://www.guymacon.com/>> wrote:

Jonathan Kirwan wrote:

On Fri, 20 Jun 2008 18:55:24 +0000, Guy Macon  
<<http://www.guymacon.com/>> wrote:

Jonathan Kirwan wrote:

My business model has me using a separate hard disk for each client and just racking it in when I work. This absolutely guarantees that a system crash or hard disk failure will not impact any other client's work. Microsoft's operating systems, up through perhaps Win2000, supported this -- I don't need to call Microsoft to get a new ID every time I set up a new hard disk for a new client -- but the rest do not, so I use them... sparingly. But I do have a few

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purchased machines  
where I do keep WinXP  
loaded, where I'm forced to  
use tools that will  
no longer run on the older  
OS. (Though I also keep a  
large number of  
older tools from Microchip  
and so on, as well.)

If you set up a standard starting disk with,  
say, XP (and of course  
all your favorite apps) on it, register your  
copy of XP, get all the  
updates, run "Windows Genuine Advantage"  
and then use XXCOPY (XXCOPY,  
not XCOPY) to clone it multiple times, all  
the cloned disks will boot  
and run just fine.

Hmm. Didn't know about that. Keep in mind that I do NOT  
run with any  
other disk in the system, so there is no single "boot disk" that  
is  
kept in the machine. There is only the one disk, itself.

That's the configuration I have been using, and it works fine.

One thing to keep in mind is that, while the resulting cloned disks  
work fine as the only disk in the system, you need a different  
setup to \*make\* the clones. Firstly, obviously you have to have  
two hard drives to clone one to another. With XXCopy, they can  
be on the same machine or on two machines connected with ethernet.  
Secondly, you can't boot from the target hard drive, because it  
will be completely erased and all data replaced with a clone of the  
source drive. Thirdly, you can't boot from the target hard drive,  
because Windos won't let XXCopy access some system files. My  
solution was to partition my hard drives into two partitions  
— Data and OS — and to install a copy of XP on each. Thus  
I boot to C: on my two computers to clone D: over the network,  
then I boot to D: on my two computers to clone C: over the  
network.

Then it is not a solution for me. I won't permit ANY access at all —  
even entirely accidental via some crash. The drives must be  
completely bootable.

Re: How workable is Vista?

Why do you imagine that the drives are not completely bootable (they are completely normal hard drives and boot like any other hard drive) or that there can be any access between them (after you are done making the clones, one will be in a drawer powered down while the other is running on the PC.) And, of course, the actual customer data goes on after the clones are made, so no interaction or cross-access there either.

Oh, well. You almost made me happy. :)

I don't see why you aren't happy.

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