

## Re: Booted Up – Hard Drive Restored to OLD State

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- *From:* Karna <Karna@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
  - *Date:* Mon, 26 Nov 2007 09:17:01 -0800
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Hi Lanwench,

Thanks for taking the time to reply!

I've found the cause of the problem and it was something simple :-)

But in my panic I thought somehow the machine had system restored itself to its state circa Jan 2002!

The problem turned out to be that my BIOS had stopped booting my SATA drive and reverted to the IDE drive on which I'd previously installed WinXP but which is now just a spare hard drive in my machine.

Strangely the system restored itself to the state it was in, in Jan 2002 rather than Apr 2006 when I last used the IDE drive but once I'd investigated the system restore points I realised what had happened.

Now I just need to fix my motherboard's corrupt CMOS but I will definitely be heeding your warning about backups because I've realised how close I came to losing irreplaceable personal data.

Again thanks for taking the time to reply and for the backup recommendation.

"Lanwench [MVP – Exchange]" wrote:

Karna <Karna@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

I've just booted my WinXP desktop and found to my horror that the profiles on the computer have all been reverted to how they were when I installed WinXP and set up the profiles.

This means that all the content on my hard drive (programs that I've installed and data) have been reverted to that state too.

Does anyone know how I can restore my PC to the way it was before this reboot please?

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Thanks

Hmmm. I have to say, there is no way this can happen on a simple reboot of your OS. Perhaps you booted from a recovery CD or partition provided by your manufacturer and went back to your original configuration, but nothing in Windows itself could or would be able to do this – or recover from it once you've initiated that process.

That said, if you have an "image" based backup (such as Acronis or Ghost, etc., can make) you should be good to go. If not, your software apps will most certainly need reinstalling, and unless you have already made backups of your data files, they may be toast.

That said, you might be able to recover some, if you stop using the computer immediately and find a third party undelete program you can launch via a USB memory stick or CD. Do not install anything on your system or use it in the meantime if you think you will have to resort to this.

It's a sad truth that most people don't think about backups until they have cause to regret not making them – I suggest you immediately get an external USB hard drive and start doing this regularly. I \*do\* like image backups and am a big fan of Acronis TrueImage, but you could also just do a simple file copy of My Documents, or script something using a batch file, or use NTBackup. Your options are myriad, but you need to do \*something\*.