

General Questions about Re-Installing Windows/Formatting a Machine/Making a Hard Drive Back-up

Formatting a Machine

Installing/Re-Installing Windows is different than formatting a machine. Depending on what is wrong with your machine you may or may not have to format the machine before re-installing Windows. Formatting a machine means that you delete everything on the hard drive including the Operating System. If you have important information on the hard drive you will want to backup the drive before formatting it. When installing Windows 2000/XP one screen ask you if you want to format the machine using either FAT, NTFS, or leave the current file system intact. Choosing the option to leave the current file system intact means that the machine will not be formatted. You can also format a drive using a DOS boot disk. The command for formatting a hard disk is `format c:` where c is the drive letter you wish to format.

Backing Up a Machine

There are a few different ways to back-up a machine. The easiest way to back up a machine is to use a CD Burner. If your machine has a CD Burner you can just burn your data to a CD. If your machine does not have a CD Burner you can remove the hard drive from the machine and hook the drive up as a secondary drive to another computer. Once the drive is connected as a second drive to another machine you will be able to copy the data from your drive to the other drive.

Re-Installing Windows

Re-Installing Windows means you are overwriting your current Operating System files with new ones. Anything that you have saved in your Windows folder will be deleted. To reinstall Windows you will either need the cabs saved on your hard drive or you will need a Windows disk. A Restore CD is not an operating system disk. A Restore CD will format the machine. Re-installing Windows generally breaks all installed software. After you re-install Windows you will need to re-install the software on your machine. Re-installing Windows is a very simple operation that involves answering yes/next type questions.