

## Stumped on fixing Boot Manager with Windows 7 and XP

Written by Editor  
Sunday, 13 March 2011 13:35 -

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Source: PRONetwork

I had XP already installed and added Windows 7 on a separate drive (not partition). Installed fine but the boot menu will not load Windows 7. When you select it, gets an error message and says to run repair. After that I went into the BIOS and changed the drive priority to boot off the Windows 7 drive first and a different boot menu comes up and Windows 7 loads fine but XP will not.

So I have a few questions here: How do fix these boot menus? I don't entirely understand how the Vista/7 boot manager differs from XP so I don't know how to manually alter it to get it working. I tried a few things in VistaBootPro but didn't seem to change it. I could change the names of the OS but it wasn't mapping the drives correctly. Anyone have an idea how to get this working properly? Thanks in advance.

Windows 7 creates a separate small System partition when installed on it's own. You need to have both drives attached and the XP drive set as the 1st boot HDD when installing Windows 7. Honestly in your situation the best thing to do is to reinstall Windows 7 in that scenario.

You can try this before that if you like:

1. Add a drive letter to the small System partition in Windows 7
2. Copy the XP boot system files (boot.ini, ntldr and NTDETECT.COM) to that 200 MB System partition
3. Make sure your boot.ini still points to the correct drive/partition - if you post the structure of your drives and partitions according to Disk Management we can help with that.
3. Run Diagnostics from the VistaBootPRO menu item
4. Reinstall the Vista bootmanager>All Drives
5. If you still don't have a working XP boot menu item then Add a legacy entry for XP via VistaBootPRO and make sure the drive letter there is the correct one according to Disk Management

Let us know how you get on with that and we'll take it from there. I'm going to move your post to the Windows 7 forum shortly.

Response:

I copied those files over to the partition and then re-installed the boot manager. I think there

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was something wrong with the path to Windows 7 because everything is working now. Thanks again for your help!