

Clean Booting

If a Boot Sector virus has infected you, as part of the repair procedure you will be instructed to re-boot your system with clean boot disks made previously. This rebuilds the damaged Master Boot Records that the virus changed. If you did not do this at installation time, or if your Boot Disks need updating, this article explains how to do it in three of the main Windows versions.

Whatever your system, you must first check that the BIOS settings reflect that Drive A: is searched before the hard drive. This means you may have to 'Set Floppy Seek' to 'Yes' and specify the seek sequence as A: then C:

All backup media should be best quality, 1.44Mb, blank and formatted. If they have ever been in a drive on an infected system, virus scan them as well.

Windows 95

- Insert a blank, formatted 1.44Mb floppy disk into the drive.
- At the C:\ prompt type:

Format A: /U

- Take out the disk and boot into Windows.
- Go to [Settings\Control panel\Add/Remove Programs\Start-up Disk](#).
- Click **Create Disk**.
- Do not use a Boot disk created on another system. Create your own from the files on your own *present* set-up. This will avoid version conflicts in certain situations.

Windows 98

- Insert a blank floppy disk into the drive.
- Put the Windows 98 CD ROM into its drive.
- Go to [CD-ROM\Tools\mtsutil\fat32ebd](#)
- Click on **fat32ebd.exe** and it will create a Win98 Emergency Boot Disk with CD-ROM support and the files needed to run set-up from the CD-ROM.
- Test it by closing down and re-booting with the disk in the drive.

Windows 2000 Professional

Making the two types of disk as explained below is also the only way in this OS to Backup and Restore the Registry.

1. The Emergency Repair Disk

- You need a 1.44 MB blank formatted disk.
- Go to **Start, Programs, Accessories, and System Tools** and click **Backup**.
- Click the **Create Emergency Repair Disk** icon.
- Insert the blank disk when asked and click OK.
- When complete, remove and label the disk Emergency Repair.

2. The Backup Set

- Insert another blank formatted disk (You will need four this time)
- Insert your Windows 2000 CD
- Click Start, Run and type in the box:

D:\bootdisk\makeboot A:

(D: = drive letter of your CD-ROM drive)

- You will eventually be asked for the next, and you will need four.
- Label them Set Up 1,2,3,4 (with the appropriate date)

This back-up set allows you to restore your Registry. Remember Windows 2000 does not let you merge a .reg file of your complete Registry (though you can still replace some sections). You will need the ERD made in part one, your 4 set-up disks and your Windows CD. Using the ERD restores your settings to the time you first installed Windows 2000. Using the Set-Up disks restores the settings to those current when you last updated the disks.

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If you have been infected and find you have no floppies to boot from, you could attempt the above method for your particular operating system. Alternatively, you could prepare the disks on a known clean system as close to your configuration as possible. This may save you having to re-format your hard drive. In neither case is success guaranteed.

If you have no emergency disks make them without further delay.

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