

Forum:[Hack Forums](#)

Thread: [How do I format my hdd so that I can install an upgraded version of OEM windows 7?](#)

Jamesislearning - February 10, 2014, 12:47 pm

How do I format my hdd so that I can install an upgraded version of OEM windows 7?

As most of you will know, windows 7 retail version is no longer available anywhere. I have 32 GB of ram in my PC, and don't want to update to windows 8. Windows home premium only supports up to 16 GB of ram, so I need to update to professional.

However only OEM versions of windows are currently available to purchase, and I've been told I will need to 'format my hdd' for a fresh install of an OS.

How would I go about this without losing everything, and correctly installing win 7 pro?

I basically just want to update my OS from home premium to professional with an OEM disk.

Thanks in advance

Jamesislearning - February 10, 2014, 12:49 pm

I've already purchased an OEM version so it'd feel like I f****d up if I did that.

Aura - February 10, 2014, 12:49 pm

Launch the Windows 7 installation, when it ask you to select where you want to install your Windows, select your main partition (that should have the old Windows on it), select "Advanced Options" and click on the little red/pink eraser icon "Format". Wait for the operation to complete then proceed with the installation. Easiest way to do that.

Wirt - February 10, 2014, 12:50 pm

What you could do is get another HDD, install Windows 7 Pro on that new HDD, then copy over the files you want to the new one.

Alternatively if you have a good amount of space, you could partition your HDD and install a clean copy on the partitioned portion of the HDD, then get all the files you want from your Windows 7 Premium part of the HDD and put it on the Pro portion.

(Feb 10, 2014 01:49 PM)Aur? Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Launch the Windows 7 installation, when it ask you to select where you want to install your Windows, select your main partition (that should have the old Windows on it), select "Advanced Options" and click on the little red/pink eraser icon "Format". Wait for the operation to complete then proceed with the installation. Easiest way to do that. He doesn't want to delete any of his files.

Jamesislearning - February 10, 2014, 12:52 pm

I did think that's how I could do it, but after emailing the person that I bought the OEM off, he said this

"It will just mess things up. You need to back up your files, format your HDD first, then install this

item."

which makes me think i'll need to format prior to me putting the disk in my machine

Wirt - February 10, 2014, 12:53 pm

(Feb 10, 2014 01:52 PM)Jamesislearning Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I did think that's how I could do it, but after emailing the person that I bought the OEM off, he said this

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Just curious.. who is this person? Is he a like Geeksquad person, or a local sales rep.. or just your friend?

Aura - February 10, 2014, 12:55 pm

(Feb 10, 2014 01:52 PM)Jamesislearning Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I did think that's how I could do it, but after emailing the person that I bought the OEM off, he said this

"It will just mess things up. You need to back up your files, format your HDD first, then install this item."

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I don,t think this person really knows what he's talking about.

What you can do is to back up all your files on an external HDD and then transfer them on the new Windows installation. OR, create a new partition on your HDD and put ALL your files in it (not programs, files). Then proceed to install Windows, format the partition containing the Windows installation and then once it's done, retransfer all the files on the Windows partition, delete the other partition and expend your new main partition.

Jamesislearning - February 10, 2014, 12:56 pm

(Feb 10, 2014 01:50 PM)Litecoin Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) He doesn't want to delete any of his files.

could I not just put the files into an external hard drive, and put the back on the PC post installation?

I have an 150gb SSD which is where my OS is currently installed

And a regular 1tb hdd which has no OS installed on it, but large files such as movies.

(Feb 10, 2014 01:53 PM)Litecoin Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Just curious.. who is this person? Is he a like Geeksquad person, or a local sales rep.. or just your friend?

aclass-software-products aclass-software-products (ebay software seller)

Wirt - February 10, 2014, 12:58 pm

(Feb 10, 2014 01:56 PM)Jamesislearning Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) could I not just put the files into an external hard drive, and put the back on the PC post installation?

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aclass-software-products aclass-software-products (ebay software seller)

If you have an external hard-drive that was be another option, but if you don't have one I don't

recommend going out and wasting your money on it just for this.

Aura - February 10, 2014, 12:59 pm

(Feb 10, 2014 01:56 PM)Jamesislearning Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) could I not just put the files into an external hard drive, and put the back on the PC post installation?

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aclass-software-products aclass-software-products (ebay software seller)

Don't listen to that guy then.

Also, yes a regular 1TB HDD is enough to backup all your files if needed. Like I said in my precedent post, back up all your files you want to keep on it then proceed with the installation Format option.

purplefag - February 10, 2014, 1:00 pm

You dont need to format the hard drive at all, you can just a copy of windows pro over your current installation. Only format if you really need to. When you pop your disk in select the partition where your current windows install resides, and you will get a message saying that there is already an installation there, with system files etc. Just select that you are ok with overwriting them, and proceed with the install. Once finished you should have a fresh copy of Win 7 pro, along with all of your stuff in a separate folder on the same hard drive called windows.old or something like that.

You will need to re-install your old programs again, but you wont lose any data from the hard drive.

Hope this helps :)

PF

Jamesislearning - February 10, 2014, 1:02 pm

(Feb 10, 2014 01:58 PM)Litecoin Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) If you have an external hard-drive that was be another option, but if you don't have one I don't recommend going out and wasting your money on it just for this.

I have an external HDD that is available for me to use.

So i'll be able to format the HDD upon putting the disk into the PC?

i'm just worried, as the guy that sold me it said OEM versions are for installing onto PC's without OS on them.

So I don't know if that feature would come with the disk?

(i'm really not great with PC's if i'm honest)

Aura - February 10, 2014, 1:03 pm

(Feb 10, 2014 02:00 PM)purplefag Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) You dont need to format the hard drive at all, you can just a copy of windows pro over your current installation. Only format if you really need to. When you pop your disk in select the partition where your current windows install resides, and you will get a message saying that there is already an installation there, with system files etc. Just select that you are ok with overwriting them, and proceed with the install. Once finished you should have a fresh copy of Win 7 pro, along with all of your stuff in a separate folder on the same hard drive called windows.old or something like that.

You will need to re-install your old programs again, but you won't lose any data from the hard drive.

Hope this helps :)

PF

Formatting the partition before will not leave a Windows.old folder behind, which would take up useless space on the HDD, so might as well format it. Also, this operation takes what, 5 minutes, not even ?

(Feb 10, 2014 02:02 PM)Jamesislearning Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I have an external HDD that is available for me to use.

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I'm just worried, as the guy that sold me it said OEM versions are for installing onto PC's without OS on them.

So I don't know if that feature would come with the disk?

(I'm really not great with PC's if I'm honest)

This feature comes with every Windows 7 installation so yes you'll be able to do it.
Do you want me to link you my tutorial on how to install Windows 7 ? I have a good part of this tutorial dedicated to formatting the partition during the installation.

Jamesislearning - February 10, 2014, 1:03 pm

(Feb 10, 2014 02:03 PM)Aur? Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Formatting the partition before will not leave a Windows.old folder behind, which would take up useless space on the HDD, so might as well format it. Also, this operation takes what, 5 minutes, not even ?

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That would be incredibly helpful :D

Aura - February 10, 2014, 1:07 pm

(Feb 10, 2014 02:03 PM)Jamesislearning Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) That would be incredibly helpful :D
Here's the tutorial :

<https://hackforums.net/showthread.php?tid=3988261>

Go to the second part which is the Windows installation. Also, feel free to ask in this thread for help/questions if you ever have a problem during the installation.

Jamesislearning - February 10, 2014, 1:07 pm

(Feb 10, 2014 02:00 PM)purplefag Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) You will need to re-install your old programs again, but you won't lose any data from the hard drive.

So if I copy my steamapps folder, etc with all steam games across, and reinstall steam, will I have to download the games again, or will steam find them?:D

purplefag - February 10, 2014, 1:09 pm

(Feb 10, 2014 02:03 PM)Aur? Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Formatting the partition before will not leave a Windows.old folder behind, which would take up useless space on the HDD, so might as well format it. Also, this operation takes what, 5 minutes, not even ?

I was under the impression that the OP wanted to keep his/her original files, hence overlaying a new install without formatting.

PF

Aura - February 10, 2014, 1:11 pm

(Feb 10, 2014 02:07 PM)Jamesislearning Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) So if I copy my steamapps folder, etc with all steam games across, and reinstall steam, will I have to download the games again, or will steam find them?:D

I suggest you to reinstall them (they'll still be on your Steam account), why ? Because most (99%) of the programs writes themselves in the registry. If you transfer the program files without installing it, it won't write itself in the registry, preventing it from working.

(Feb 10, 2014 02:09 PM)purplefag Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I was under the impression that the OP wanted to keep his/her original files, hence overlaying a new install without formatting.

PF

Yeah he wants to keep his personal files, but like stated, he should just back up them on his 1TB external HDD.

purplefag - February 10, 2014, 1:11 pm

(Feb 10, 2014 02:07 PM)Jamesislearning Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) So if I copy my steamapps folder, etc with all steam games across, and reinstall steam, will I have to download the games again, or will steam find them?:D

If you DL steam, then copy the steam folder across, overwriting everything, all your games should be there.

Jamesislearning - February 10, 2014, 1:13 pm

(Feb 10, 2014 02:11 PM)Aur? Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Yeah he wants to keep his personal files, but like stated, he should just back up them on his 1TB external HDD.

That HDD isn't external, it's internal
but I have access to an external if necessary

(Feb 10, 2014 02:11 PM)purplefag Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) If you DL steam, then copy the steam folder across, overwriting everything, all your games should be there.

& i've just realised that all my steam games are already installed in the HDD away from my OS

Aura - February 10, 2014, 1:14 pm

(Feb 10, 2014 02:13 PM)Jamesislearning Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) That HDD isn't external, it's internal
but I have access to an external if necessary

Oh yeah, then you can definitively back up all your files on it. Just connect the HDD in slave mode (second HDD) if it's not done already and move all your files on it.

Jamesislearning - February 10, 2014, 1:17 pm

(Feb 10, 2014 02:14 PM)Aur? Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Oh yeah, then you can definitively back up all your files on it. Just connect the HDD in slave mode (second HDD) if it's not done already and move all your files on it.

Just to doubly make sure that I know what I am doing tomorrow.

I'm literally backing up all my files on an external HDD (or internal)
putting the disk into my machine

I'll be given an option to format my SSD by the disk to remove the OS
After this i'll be able to install the OS as normal?

Aura - February 10, 2014, 1:20 pm

(Feb 10, 2014 02:17 PM)Jamesislearning Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Just to doubly make sure that I know what I am doing tomorrow.

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putting the disk into my machine

I'll be given an option to format my SSD by the disk to remove the OS

After this i'll be able to install the OS as normal?

Yes. If you don't know which partition to format on your SSD (even there, the one you need to format will be pretty easy to see), you can always send me a picture of the screen and I'll tell you which one to format, but like I said, it will be pretty obvious.

Jamesislearning - February 10, 2014, 1:22 pm

how do I see the partitions?

as I will get the up now and get a picture

Aura - February 10, 2014, 1:26 pm

(Feb 10, 2014 02:22 PM)Jamesislearning Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) how do I see the partitions?

as I will get the up now and get a picture

They'll be listed in that window :

Except that the partitions will be named like :

Disk 0 Partition 1

Disk 0 Partition 2

Etc.

Usually, the Disk 0 Partition 1 is where your Windows is installed. You can confirm it by checking the occupied/total size of that partition.

Jamesislearning - February 10, 2014, 1:28 pm

(Feb 10, 2014 02:26 PM)Aur? Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) You can confirm it by checking the occupied/total size of that partition.

Oh so i'll just be able to see that the disk is 150gb and choose to format that one?

Aura - February 10, 2014, 1:30 pm

(Feb 10, 2014 02:28 PM)Jamesislearning Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Oh so i'll just be able to see that the disk is 150gb and choose to format that one?

Yeah.

Like, let's say that right now, your C: partition size is 150GBs and you have 100GBs left on it. In your window installation, if you see let's say Disk 0 Partition 1 that is a 150GBs partition with 100GBs left on it, well you know that it's your "C:." partition where your Windows is actually installed.

Jamesislearning - February 10, 2014, 1:39 pm

(Feb 10, 2014 02:30 PM)Aur? Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Yeah.

Like, let's say that right now, your C: partition size is 150GBs and you have 100GBs left on it. In your window installation, if you see let's say Disk 0 Partition 1 that is a 150GBs partition with 100GBs left on it, well you know that it's your "C:." partition where your Windows is actually installed.

Thanks so much for your help, like really man cheers

Aura - February 10, 2014, 1:41 pm

(Feb 10, 2014 02:39 PM)Jamesislearning Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Thanks so much for your help, like really

man cheers

No problem mate. Feel free to post in my tutorial or in this thread if you have any issues during the installation !