

IDE To SATA

Cloning an IDE drive to an SATA drive, or vice versa, is almost as straightforward as IDE-to-IDE cloning. There's just one key difference: Currently, only a handful of SATA controllers are available, the majority of which are made by Silicon Image, VIA, and Promise. The Promise controller is, strictly speaking, a RAID controller; as such, it will not be detected automatically by the Acronis True Image software. However, when I've tested the VIA and Silicon Image SATA controllers, both were automatically detected by the Acronis True Image software.

Because Windows XP does not natively include SATA drivers, when you attempt to boot from the new, cloned SATA hard drive, you'll discover that Windows XP will not load. To prevent this, be sure to enable the SATA controller in the BIOS and load the drivers into Windows before cloning. Should you forget to do this, a repair installation of Windows will be required to make the machine bootable again without losing your customers data. You'll need your customer's XP installation CD and a diskette containing the SATA drivers. (These are generally available from the motherboard manufacturers' Web sites.) Boot to your customer's XP installation CD. Almost immediately as the XP installation CD loads, you'll be invited to press F6 to "install a third party SCSI or RAID driver." Do it.

You're only offered this option for about 20 seconds, so act quickly. After you've pressed F6, it may seem like nothing has happened. Be patient. Eventually, you'll be greeted with a screen inviting you to press "S" to load third-party disk controller drivers. Press "S," insert the SATA driver diskette into the floppy drive, and follow the on-screen instructions.

Once the Windows XP setup loads the remainder of the drivers from the CD, you'll see a screen asking if you want to set up or repair Windows XP. It's important that you do not choose "repair" at this point. The Windows XP installation process actually offers a second repair option, and that's the one we want!

Next, press ENTER to "set up Windows XP now." Then press F8 to agree to the software license when you're asked. The next screen will offer a second repair option. Select this. Windows will then install on top of itself, leaving all of your customer's data and applications unharmed.

Note: When you do this, you will lose all previously installed Windows updates. But once the

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repair install is complete, Windows XP should boot back to the customer's familiar desktop. I highly recommend that you immediately visit Microsoft's Windows Update site to download and install all the patches your customer's system is missing.

Webadmin...

UPDATE - 5-24-2011...

Recently setup using Acronis 2011 Home with the plus pack and you can now use the Acronis Universal Restore. You do have to use the GUI and point to the new drivers for the newer system. The most important driver is the drive controller driver which today will typically be SATA. Once you setup a pointer or link during the pre-setup to create a universal Acronis image, you will have the universal restore run on the new system and the driver link will load the appropriate driver.

I used this several times now and have been able to move XP accross different systems seamlessly. You will have to top off the other basic drivers like mode, network etc but if you setup the universal restore and get the basic drive controller driver you sould be successful. [Acronis link here....](#)