

Jupiter

Information Technology

Partitioning for Recovery

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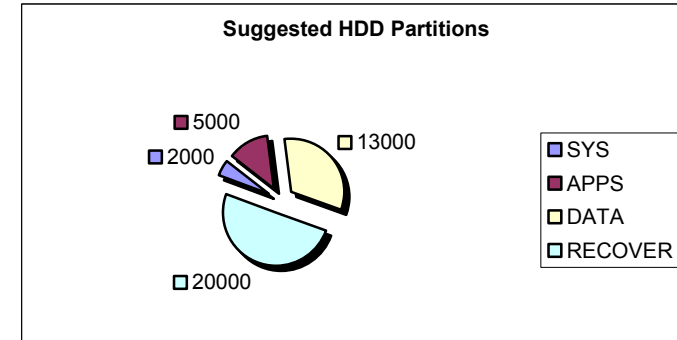
We have seen from 'Data backup planning tool.pdf' that data backup is essential, and that careful planning is required in advance. One key task that should be carried out to simplify the backup process is to divide the Hard Disk Drive into a number of separate partitions. Each partition should be dedicated to particular types of data, as we can see from the diagrams below.

This scheme has a number of benefits.

- It is easy to recover the system after an operating system reinstallation, without having to worry about losing our data.
- We can keep all our data in one place, making it easier to carry out routine data backups
- If our hard disk is large enough, we can use spare capacity to keep a copy of everything, should it be required.

Partitioning normally requires advance planning, as it should be done before the operating system is installed. It is possible to use dedicated partitioning software for a computer that is already in operational use, but it can be time consuming (and the process is error prone) to separate out system files, applications and data.

Name	Size (MB)	Notes
SYS	2000	This contains all operating system files. For Windows 2000/XP this is the minimum size. For Windows 9x/Me/NT4, this can be reduced to 1000 MB
APPS	5000	All applications are installed here, where possible. In practice, some applications will be installed to SYS.
DATA	13000	All data is stored here. This is connected to 'My Documents' folder
RECOVER	20000	This partition is at least equal in size to all other partitions. This means that the entire contents of all the other partitions can be stored here if necessary



The partition scheme suggested here is based on a typical 40 GB Hard Disk Drive.

The SYS and APPS suggested partition sizes are appropriate for current, modern systems. In future years, these figures will need revising upwards.

For older systems, partition sizes will be lower. For example, a typical 266 Mhz PC of 1998 vintage, will typically have a HDD of, say, 3 GB. In these cases, there is unlikely to be much available space to create a RECOVER partition.