PARAGON GPT LOADER

REVIEWER'S GUIDE

PRODUCT CONCEPT

PRIMARY AUDIENCE

WINDOWS XP USERS

3TB drives are out of the supported size range for the popular Windows XP 32-bit system. Though two new Windows versions have been released since XP, it is still utilized on 51% of computers worldwide. Meaning, roughly half of PC users simply cannot use the new hard disk drives.

The problem is caused by the fact that Windows XP 32-bit cannot address disk space beyond 2TiB limit, recognizing only 2^{32} sectors of the disk, or 2TB (2048 GB) of data. Much of the disk is not accessible if partitioned using a Master Boot Record (MBR). MBR is an old disk partitioning scheme, though still widely supported by most all computers since the 3.5 inch floppy disk era. An alternative advanced partitioning scheme exists, GUID Partition Table (GPT), which has none of the drawbacks of MBR, and supports large enough volumes for 3TB drives. However, GPT support is not as widespread as MBR and it's not supported by Windows XP.

There is a solution, however: the use of a specially designed driver, which augments Windows XP and adds the functionality of supporting the GPT partitioning scheme.

You can achieve full access to 3TB drives under Windows XP by installing Paragons GPT Loader driver. If you do not have a solution for creating GPT volumes, you can use a special utility, shipped with the driver.

Paragon GPT Loader is intended to be the best solution for Windows XP and 3TB drives users. It solves the following problems:

- Accessing all disk space of 3TB HDD from Windows XP (and later)

- Adding support of GPT volumes in Windows XP (and later)

GPT Loader addresses a broad audience:

- Home users

- IT administrators

- Service providers

- Upgrade specialists

Key differentiators of Paragon GPT Loader:

- Simplicity

- Convenience

These qualities are important for those who need a simple solution to this Windows XP drawback, but are not ready to take on complex technical tasks.

WINDOWS VISTA/7 USERS

3TB drives appear to be supported by new Windows operating systems (Vista and later) at first glance, but other system software could limit their support. One particular situation includes Intel Storage Matrix Drivers for HDD controllers, which will not allow full access to the entire 3TB in all systems where present, and occur in 99% of systems with Intel chipset-based motherboards. This 32-bit software simply cannot access beyond the 2TB limit on the disk, thus causing the majority of the disk to remain unavailable.

There are three options for users running Windows Vista or a later OS who want a new 3TB drive. First, the large HDD can be used as a small (1TB or less) drive by just plugging it into the computer, which would mean paying for storage that cannot be used. Second, the 3TB drive can be plugged to an additional HDD controller, increasing the cost of purchases for your system and the risk of violating the hardware guarantee terms, especially for brand-name computers.

A third cost- and resource-effective option for Windows 7 users is now available -- the use of a specially designed driver that overrides native Intel drivers and supports 3TB drives.

Full, unrestricted access to 3TB drives under Windows Vista and later can be achieved by installing the Paragon GPT Loader driver.

Paragon GPT Loader is intended to be the best solution for Windows Vista (and later) and 3TB drives users who have Intel-based systems. It solves the following problems:

- Accessing all disk space of 3TB HDD from Windows Vista (and later) in Intel-based systems

GPT Loader addresses a broad audience:

- Home users

- IT administrators

- Service providers

- Upgrade specialists

Key differentiators of Paragon GPT Loader:

- Simplicity

- Convenience

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GETTING STARTED

RECOMMENDED TARGET ENVIRONMENT

Paragon GPT Loader can operate smoothly on different computer configurations. The necessary requirements are:

- Windows XP or later system, and a 3TB drive

- System Administrator login privileges to install Paragon GPT Loader;
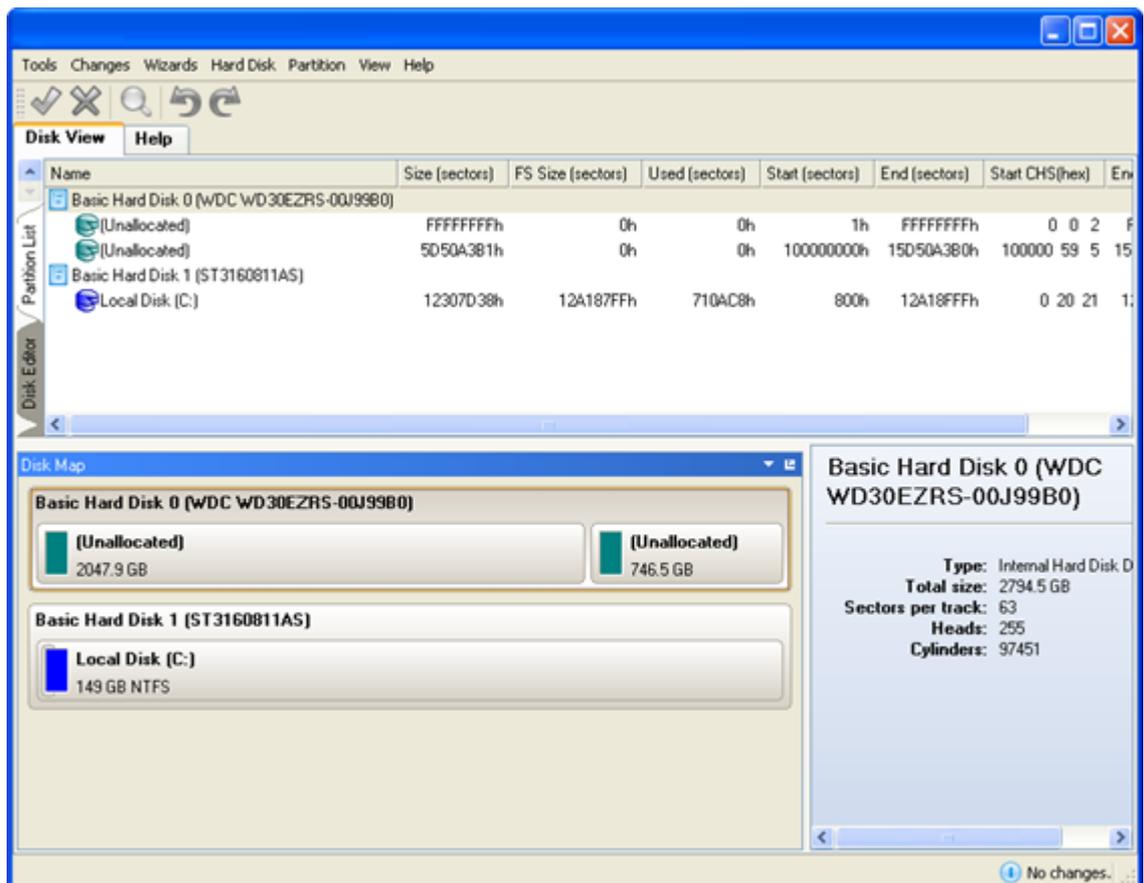
PARAGON GPT LOADER INSTALLATION

The setup utility has the standard user interface and set of installation steps.

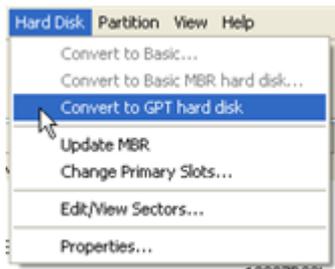Click "Continue Anyway" if you wish to proceed with the installation.
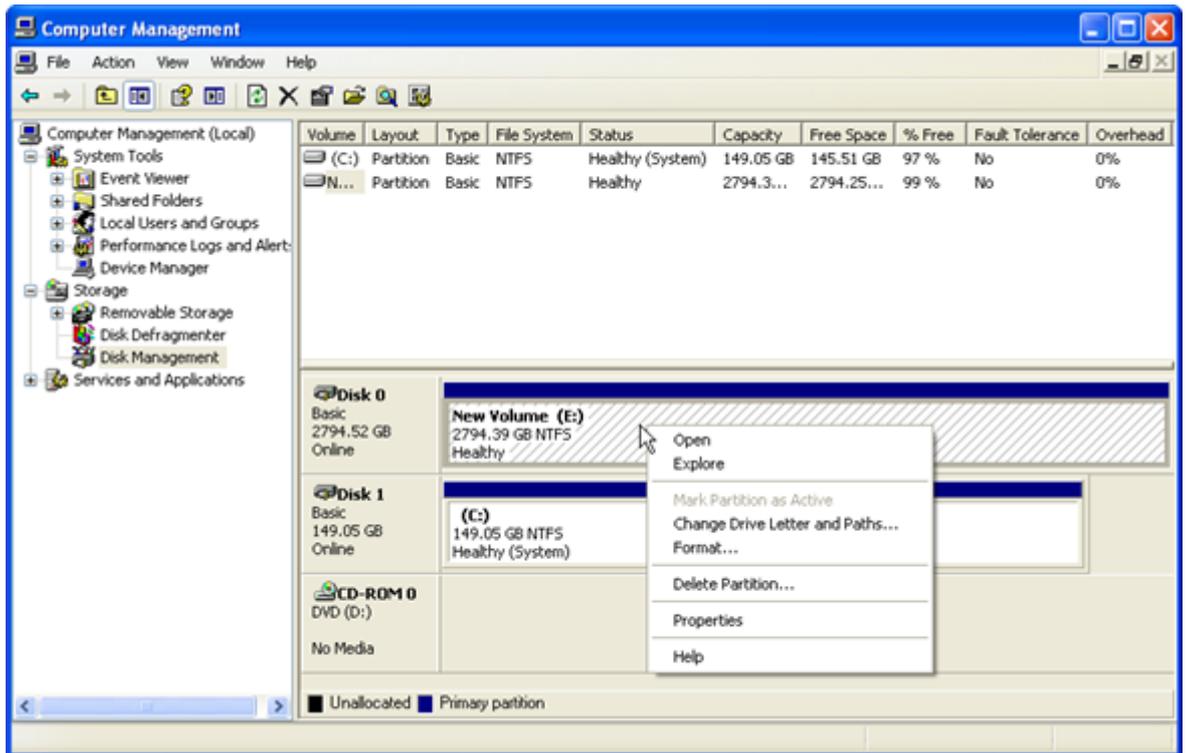
USING PARAGON GPT LOADER

After installation, you will need to create the GPT partitioning scheme on the 3TB drive. To do this, launch the Paragon GPT Disk Manager shipped with the driver.

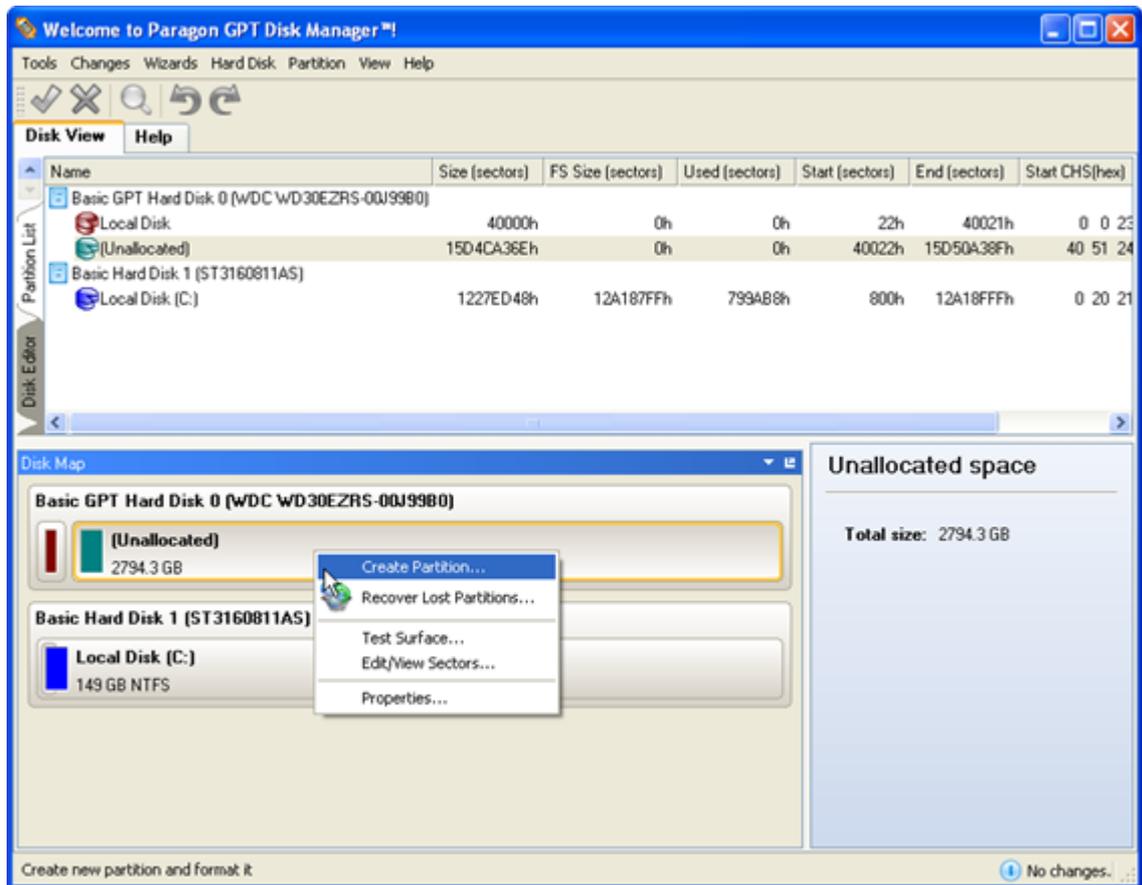1. In the main program window, click the "Hard Disk" menu item.

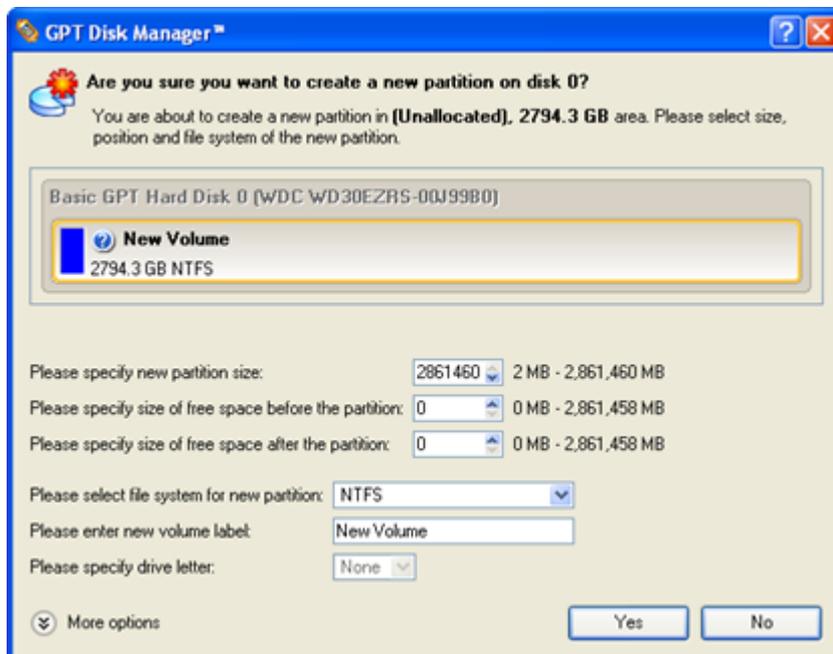2. Select the "Convert to GPT hard disk" menu option. Perform the operation.

You will now have full access to your 3TB drive. For example - you can create a 3TB volume on the disk using the Windows Disk Management console, or you can use the Paragon GPT Disk Manager by following these steps:
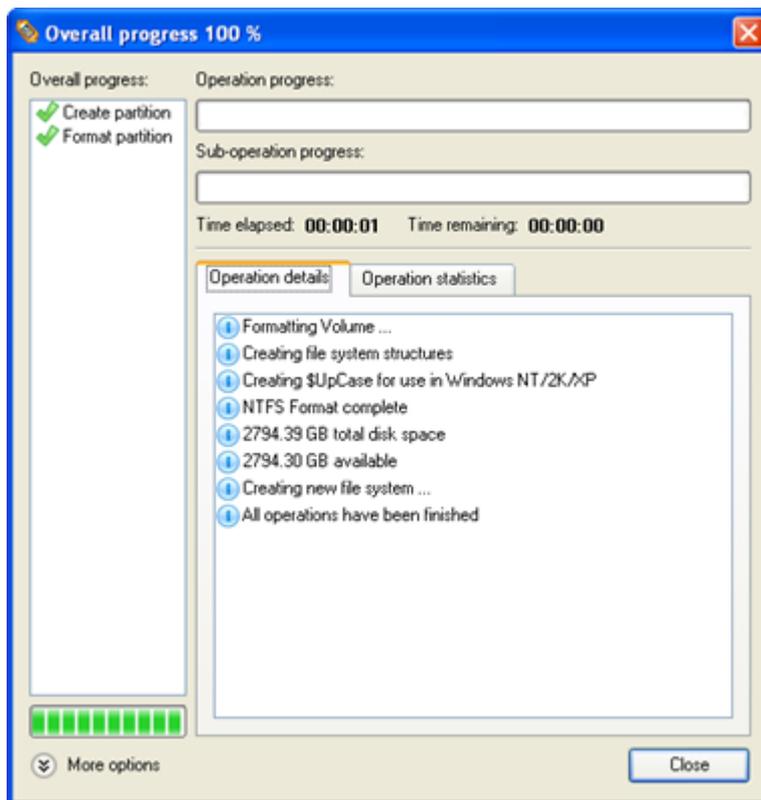
1. Run Paragon GPT Disk Manager.

2. Click the right mouse button on the free disk space on the 3TB disk. Then select the "Create Partition…" menu option on the context menu.

3. The partition creation dialog box will open where you can observe and further change the partition size, the file system type and other parameters.

4. The program creates the required volume.

CONCLUSION

Paragon GPT Loader is a simple solution to gain access to new high-capacity HDDs in Windows XP operating systems. Despite OS incompatibility with 3TB drives, the program bypasses them using a special driver and GPT management utility.

It also helps to resolve incompatibility issues between Intel-based systems and 3TB drives in Windows Vista and later operating systems.