

Migration to Windows® 7 with Paragon Partition Manager™

Best Practices

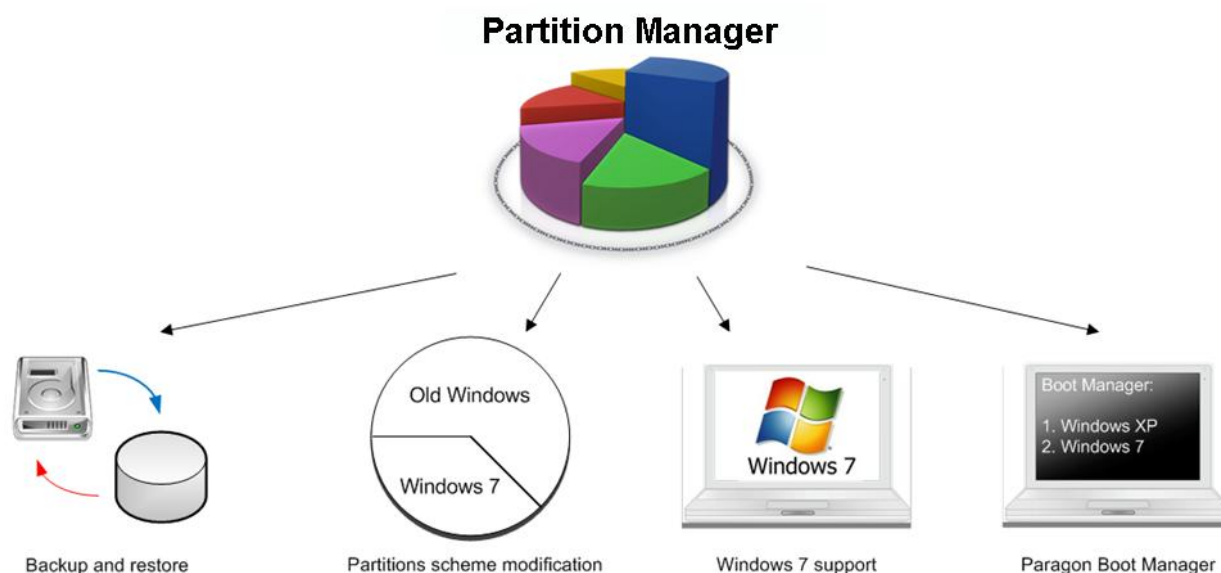
Doc Highlights

This document describes how Paragon Partition Manager helps to prepare a computer to Windows 7 installation, organize multiple operating systems environment, leave Windows 7 as a main standalone OS or return a computer to its original state.

The Problem to Solve

Microsoft Windows operating systems are most used in the world, so each release of a new OS version get great attention of the whole IT world. Every operating system has its own requirements, features and peculiarities which change from one version to another. The advantages of a new OS version are best hardware support, new interfaces, new components and fixed bugs; the disadvantages are new bugs, lack of old hardware and software support and the necessity to get accustomed to new graphical interfaces. Thereby the momentary upgrade to a new OS version is not a best practice. The preferred option here is to use the old OS version and new one simultaneously on the same computer. In this case a user has choices either to uninstall the new OS version or leave it as a main working environment after some tests and the trial period (may be with deletion of the old version).

Having over 10-year experience in delivering drive partitioning and disaster recovery solutions, Paragon Software is well aware of all the latest trends on the market and is ready to address them in the most efficient way. Paragon Partition Manager is the best solution to prepare and configure the existing software environment to a new OS installation. It provides several technologies which address OS migration:



- **Full Windows 7 Support.** A unique feature on system utilities market, Paragon Software is one of the first software builders, which announced Windows 7 support.
- **Partitions scheme modification.** An operating system usually needs its own partition to be installed on. Paragon Partition Manager is able to resize existing partitions to free disk space, create and format a new partition. It's also able to modify partition attributes such as active or hidden/visible flags. You can also use an existing partition to install Windows. If the partition

doesn't have enough free space and you don't want to create another one, you could use Partition Manager to rearrange files between partitions.

- You can install convenient **Paragon Boot Manager** to update Windows one.
- **Backup and restore of existing partitions.** Before any modifications are done it's necessary to save all important data. If data was lost or system won't load, archive restore is the easiest way to return to the original software environment. Paragon Partition Manager also includes several Recovery Environment types.

Creating a Dual-Boot System with Windows 7

Let's see how with help of Paragon Partition Manager we could add Windows 7 into existing software environment. Assume that the example computer has only one partition, which occupies the whole hard drive space. It's a NTFS volume with Windows XP installed. You've got a Windows 7 installation disk and want to try it. There are two possible ways to prepare your system for Windows 7 installation, but before performing any actions don't forget to back up your Windows XP partition.

- The first method of system preparation is fast and easy. Paragon Partition Manager has a special tool, Install New OS Wizard, which automatically scans the hard drive, prepare a new partition for Windows 7 installation and reboot the computer. After reboot you'll be offered to install a new OS and then set up Boot Manager.
- The second method demands more your attention, but allows you to tune all peculiar operations settings. The steps are the following: resize the Windows XP partition to free some space, create a new NTFS volume, hide and inactive the original partition, restart the computer and install Windows 7. The next operation is the same to the previous method: the Boot Manager installation.

In both cases you'll get the dual-system environment and be able to boot either original Windows XP or new Windows 7. All these actions you could also perform using one of Paragon Recovery Environments without any unnecessary reboots.

Making the Final Decision

The moment has come and you've decided to make the final choice for one of the systems. There are two variants of possible actions, depending on which operating system you want to leave and which one to delete. In both cases Paragon Partition Manager is very useful.

- To finally migrate to Windows 7 perform the following actions in Partition Manager: uninstall Boot Manager, delete the Windows XP partition and make the Windows 7 partition active. You could also enlarge the Windows 7 partition to occupy all free space on the hard drive, or move the partition and create an auxiliary one.
- You can restore the original environment archive if you decided to leave Windows XP only. It's a fast and simple operation, but it will leave you with out of date files and delete all information, which was created after Windows 7 installation. Thus this variant is appropriate only if you don't need to safe modified data, or there isn't any new data at all. Paragon Partition Manager is able to quick restore the archive under Windows or Recovery Environment. Another option to keep Windows XP only is to roll back manually all partitioning scheme changes, which were performed before and after Windows 7 installation.

Conclusion

With Paragon Partition Manager you have the possibility to safely dive into a new world of Windows 7 opportunities. The unique, robust technologies from Paragon Software make Windows 7 migration smooth and easy as never before.