



REVIEWER'S GUIDE

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Hard Disk Backup and Recovery Solutions

The Problem

Despite all of the advances in PC technology, the risk of significant data loss is greater today than at any other time in the history of the personal computer. This is understandable considering the amount of information stored on today's personal computers.

While hard disk technology has improved over the years, hardware and system malfunctions remain one of the leading causes of data loss for the personal computer. In fact, Iomega Data Recovery Services has indicated that approximately 70% of data loss cases processed by them are caused by physical problems.

Other leading causes of data loss include human error and software corruption. Together, these represent losses due to the accidental deletion of files, formatting of drives, malicious software and virus infections.

Fortunately permanent data loss can be prevented with the use of a dependable backup solution. But while users have many options available, most are either too complicated or tedious to use.

Over the years, traditional backup solutions have used some form of removable media for the backup archive including floppy disks, Zip disks, CDs, DVDs, and the like. These forms of backup are ideal when small amounts of data need to be archived, but because today's hard disks have significantly larger capacities, these solutions are too time consuming to be practical to use as a routine backup regimen on the modern PC.

More recently, users have looked to disk cloning technology as an alternative. Originally designed as a data migration tool to assist with upgrading a hard disk in a PC, disk cloning has emerged as a viable alternative to the traditional backup program.

Unfortunately, many of the disk cloning utilities currently positioned as backup and recovery solutions were originally designed for the IT professional and fall considerably short of end-users' expectations. While many of these programs make it easy to compress the contents of an entire hard disk into a single "image archive" file, the problem of storing the image archive file for backup remains virtually the same as for the traditional backup program. The archive must either be stored in its entirety on another hard disk or split across multiple CDs or DVDs, and the complexity and inconvenience of data restoration remains. In the event of a hard disk failure, the user must first locate a custom rescue disk to begin the laborious data restoration process, while hoping that the disk's contents are intact.

Using these utilities to directly clone a disk to a dedicated backup hard disk is often made impractical as well. Because the backup must be performed outside of Windows, these programs inconvenience the user by needlessly requiring a computer restart, interrupting normal workflow.

Casper XP™ - Making a Difference

The Solution - Casper XP

Casper XP™ is a hard disk cloning solution designed to meet the expectations of the consumer looking for an easy-to-use, convenient, and dependable backup and recovery solution for their PC.

As a backup and recovery solution, Casper XP offers the consumer these unique advantages:

- Casper XP operates entirely from within Windows.
- Casper XP enables backups to be performed at any time so there is never a need to restart the computer or stop work to create a backup. Integrated scheduling even permits the backup to be performed completely unattended in the background.
- Casper XP creates a fully bootable backup of a system drive. This means there are no special rescue disks or arduous data restoration processes to follow in the event of a system hard disk failure. Recovery is as simple as booting from the backup.

What makes Casper XP different?

Casper XP was designed from the ground up for use on Windows XP and with the consumer market in mind. It runs entirely within the Windows environment, eliminating the need to reboot, create or use special startup disks, or learn archaic, confusing DOS commands to upgrade, backup, or restore hard disks.

Who needs Casper XP?

Every consumer interested in protecting their investment of time and effort installing software and creating personal files, and every consumer wanting to upgrade to a larger hard disk needs Casper XP.

Why is a cloning solution so vital?

A good disk cloning solution will simplify the process of data migration as well as backup.

As consumers run out of room on their hard disk they need a way to easily transfer all of their programs, files, preferences, and settings to a larger hard disk. A disk cloning solution makes this effort trivial and allows the process to be completed in minutes.

Hard disks eventually fail and files may become “lost” or corrupted. Although programs can be re-installed, user preferences and user-created files often must be recreated. Unless a backup is available, it may take weeks and even months to recreate the contents of a hard disk that has failed – and personal files may be lost forever. A good disk cloning solution provides an economical and efficient solution to this problem by allowing another hard disk to be readily maintained as a backup.

What are the most important issues for users of cloning programs?

Ease of use. A program that is too complicated to use is of little value to a user who cannot figure out how to use it. A disk cloning program must be intuitive and easy to use in order for it to be a viable backup or data migration solution.

Convenience. While just having a backup is better than nothing, having a current backup can make all the difference in the world. Unfortunately, backups are often put off or forgone altogether when the computer is needed for other tasks, or worse, forgotten when the task is left as a manual chore for the user. To be a good backup solution, a disk cloning program must free the user from the burden of maintaining the backup as well as permit the backup to be performed at any time -- without disrupting what the user is currently doing on the computer.

Dependability. A backup is worthless if it cannot be accessed or restored when needed. A disk cloning solution must produce a reliable backup that a user can depend on when disaster strikes.

How does Casper XP address the ease-of-use issue?

Casper XP utilizes a series of sophisticated wizards which are carefully designed to make the process of backing up or upgrading a hard disk extremely easy, especially for novices. The wizards are engineered to take all of the guess work out of cloning a disk by guiding a user intuitively through the entire disk cloning process and automatically managing many of the tasks that might ordinarily make the process too technical or confusing for the novice.

How does Casper XP address the convenience issue?

Casper XP enables backups to be performed at any time and without requiring a system restart. With integrated scheduling, backups can be automated to run fully unattended – day or night -- even while users are working. No need to stop work to make a backup, and no loss of productivity.

How does Casper XP address the dependability issue?

Casper XP was engineered specifically for Windows XP using state-of-the-art technology. With Casper XP there are never any surprises to the validity of a backup. If trouble is encountered during the cloning process, Casper XP records the problem as well as any affected volume, file, and directory in an ease-to-read, comprehensive report. By creating a fully bootable backup of a system drive, Casper XP not only eliminates the frustration and problems typically associated with complicated data restoration processes, but also makes it extraordinarily easy to test and use a backup should the need arise.

What about Windows 98/ME support?

Casper XP includes Drive2Drive for Windows 9x/ME users. Like Casper XP, Drive2Drive also runs entirely within the Windows environment and shares the same easy to use, wizard based design that makes backing up and upgrading hard disks a breeze.

What benefits does Casper XP provide for a user?

Feature	Benefit
Designed exclusively for Windows XP and Windows 2000 using state-of-the-art technology	Optimal performance and dependability
Runs entirely from within the Windows environment	No need to reboot, create or use special startup disks, or learn archaic, confusing DOS commands in order to back up ¹
Easy to use wizards guide users through the process	Makes cloning drives extremely easy, even for novices, and allows cloning of hard disks or individual partitions to begin in seconds. ²
Creates instantly bootable, dependable backups	No need to search for special startup disks or figure out how to restore an image when a crisis strikes. The existing backup is immediately bootable if the primary drive becomes unusable. ³
Works while you work	No need to stop what you are doing – Casper XP can clone your system drive in the background
Integrated scheduling	Backups can be automated and performed at any time – day or night – <i>unattended!</i>
Automatically converts drives from FAT16 to FAT32 or from FAT to NTFS during the copy when necessary	Users aren't burdened with needing to make complicated, confusing decisions. Casper XP automatically does what's expected.
Automatically resizes drives during the copy to make full use of larger hard disks, or to copy a larger hard disk to a smaller hard disk.	Allows users to copy to a wide variety of disk sizes, larger or smaller than the primary disk. Does what users expect – automatically.
Intrinsic support for all drives supported by Windows, including ATA/IDE, SCSI, USB, Firewire, SATA and hardware RAID arrays Copies up to 2 terabytes in size. Compatible with all versions of FAT and NTFS.	Wide range of supported hardware assures compatibility and eliminates the need to install special drivers. If Windows supports the user's hard disk, Casper XP will too.
Performs advanced disk management tasks using Casper XP Explorer	Users can create and remove partitions, change the active partition, change a drive letter assignment, replace damaged or missing boot records, and more.

¹ Not having to create and use a special startup disk is a real advantage to some – particularly because these disks have a tendency to get misplaced.

² The Casper XP wizards are very sophisticated “behind the scenes,” providing users with up-front feedback rather than through a subsequent error message. They take the guess work out of cloning a disk or partition and prevent the user from accidentally doing the wrong thing.

³ Users are already stressed when disaster strikes. Requiring them to figure out how to perform the restore and then wait for the process to complete to see if the image restored properly only adds to their anxiety.

In a nutshell, what are the most important differences between Casper XP and other cloning programs on the market?

Casper XP was designed from the ground up for the consumer market, not the IT professional. With an emphasis on ease-of-use, Casper XP is a user-friendly disk cloning solution that makes upgrading a hard disk and creating and maintaining a backup hard disk particularly easy for the average computer user.

Casper XP simply does what the user expects rather than forcing the user to understand all of the ins and outs of today's modern personal computer...and does it all without leaving the Windows environment, while the user is working, sleeping – anytime!.

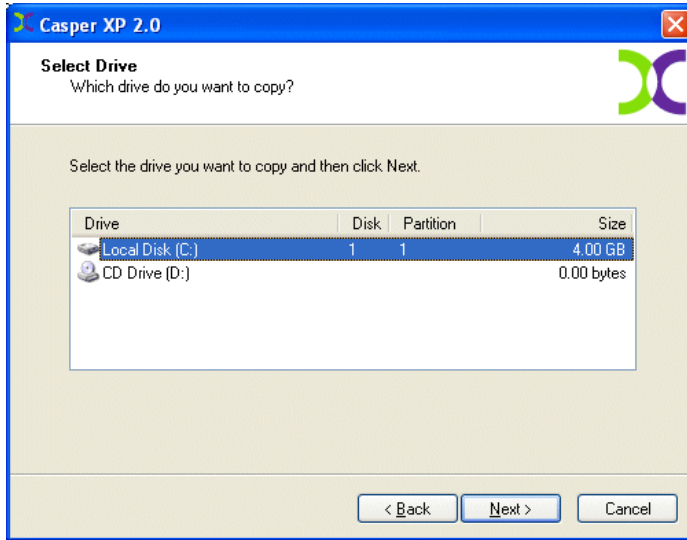
* * *

Casper XP Screen Shots

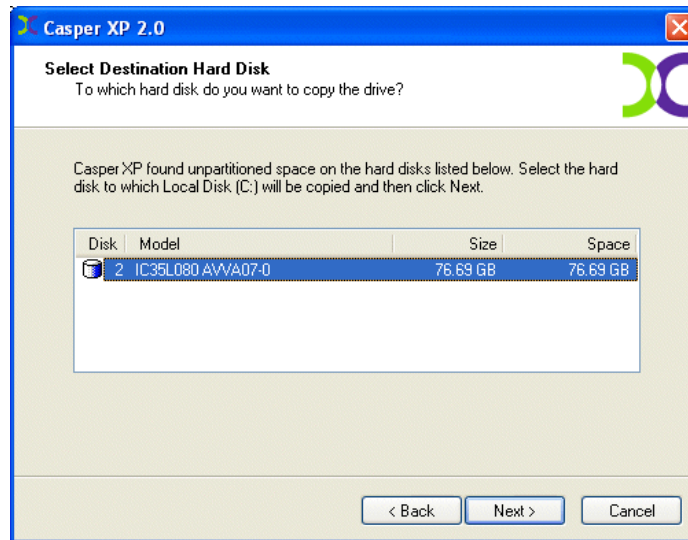


1
Console

Casper XP Screen Shots (cont'd)

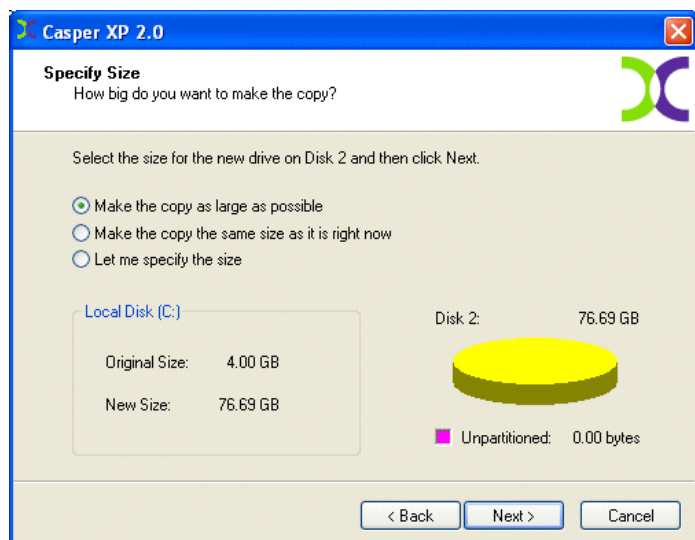


2
Select Source

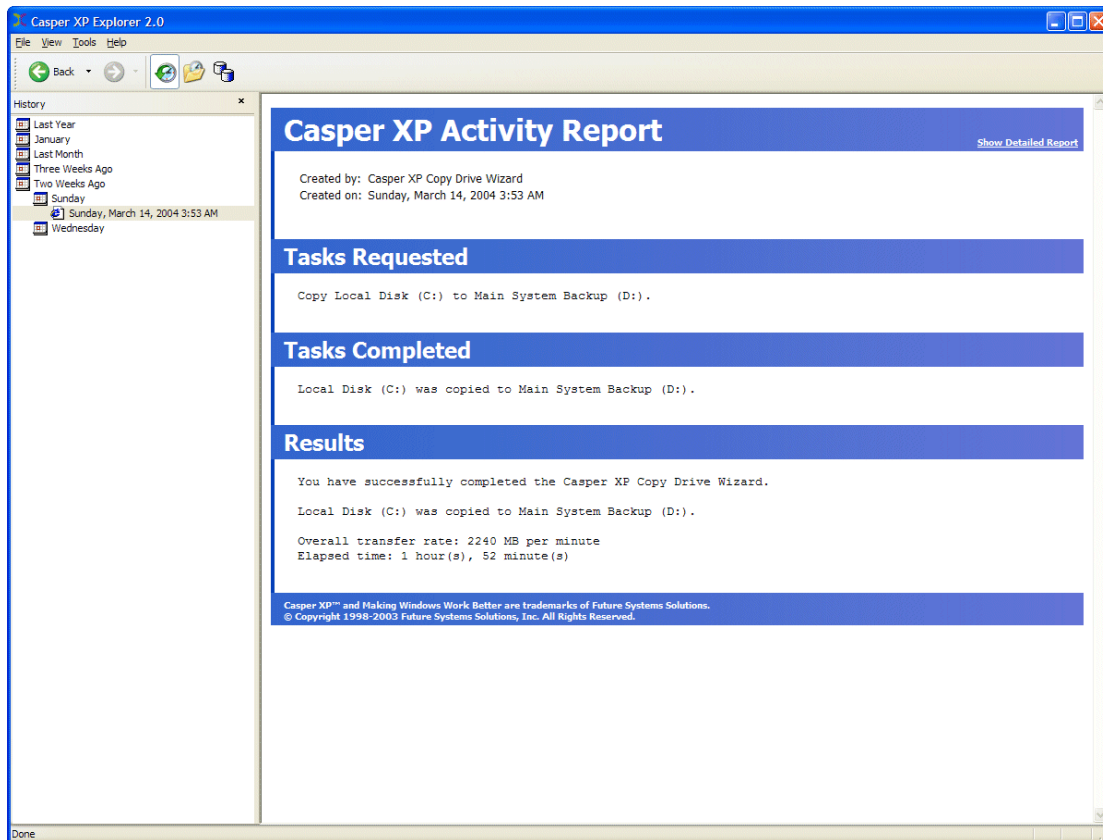


3
Select Destination

4
Specify Size



Casper XP Screen Shots (cont'd)



5
Activity Report

About Future Systems Solutions, Inc.

Future Systems Solutions, Inc. (FSS) was founded in 1986 to develop software solutions that enhance the operation of existing systems. The company has worked with and supplied technologies to industry-leading companies, including Symantec, Iomega, and Quarterdeck.

In 1986 FSS became the first company to bring device-independent disk caching to the PC market with the introduction of SpeedCache™. This unique approach to disk caching meant not only superior performance, but also an unrivaled level of compatibility. By avoiding system dependencies, SpeedCache offered true plug-and-play compatibility for any computer system that supported Microsoft's DOS operating system.

In those early days of personal computing, FSS quickly became a premier provider of software solutions for RAM expansion manufacturers and system resellers. In 1987, the company released EME™, a solution designed for computer system manufacturers that needed a way to simulate the emerging expanded memory standard from the more common and less expensive form of expansion memory known as extended memory.

To further enhance the value of extended memory, FSS released version 2.0 of its caching product as Speedcache+™. Together with EME, Speedcache+ quickly became a favorite bundle for original equipment manufacturers producing PCs.

In 1989, FSS licensed the Speedcache+ technology to Peter Norton Computing as a component for the Norton Utilities. With the success of the Norton Utilities, the disk caching technology developed by FSS became second only to Microsoft's SmartDrive (which was bundled with MS-DOS) as the largest distributed disk caching technology for the PC.

In the early 1990's FSS' Speedcache+ became the premier disk caching utility for the Microsoft Windows environment. In 1992, FSS debuted the first caching technology to enhance multimedia and CD-ROM drive performance on the PC. By 1993, the rave reviews from the PC industry and the growing popularity of Speedcache+ attracted the interest of Symantec and led to the exclusive licensing of the technology for distribution under the Norton Speeddrive label.

FSS continued to be a key provider of system enhancement utilities to software publishers while pursuing research and development efforts in emerging technologies. In 1996, FSS signed an exclusive licensing agreement with Quarterdeck Corporation and released the first device-independent persistent caching technology for CD-ROM drives. Then, in 1997 FSS licensed its innovative application launch acceleration technology to Symantec Corporation for inclusion in the Norton Utilities, and in 1998, FSS added to its list of technology leading developments with the introduction of DriveSpan™, the first true hard disk spanning utility for PCs.

Also in 1998, FSS introduced Drive2Drive™, a product designed to make backing up existing hard disks and upgrading to new hard disks faster and easier than ever. Designed specifically for Windows 9x / ME, Drive2Drive was the first product of its kind to image an active Windows system hard disk completely within the Windows environment. This advance made it possible for non-technical users to upgrade and backup their system hard disk without the need to create or use a special startup disk, or waste time learning archaic DOS commands.

In 2002 Future System Solutions introduced its latest hard disk backup and upgrading solution - Casper XP™. Casper satisfies a critical need for easy-to-use, convenient, and dependable hard disk cloning technology designed from the ground up for optimal interaction with the Windows XP operating system.

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