

Lab 5.6.5: Windows Startup Disk

Estimated time: 15 Minutes

Objective

Upon completion of this exercise, you will be able to create a Windows 9x Startup Disk.

Equipment

The following equipment is required for this exercise:

- Computer with Windows 9x operating system installed
- One 3 ½ " blank diskette

Scenario

You have installed the Windows 9x operating system, but did not make a Windows Startup Disk during the installation.

Procedures

Once the operating system is up and running, create a Windows 9x Startup Disk. If for some reason Windows will not load, the boot disk may be necessary to begin the troubleshooting process.

Note: In this lab, use the built-in functionality of Windows 9x to create a Windows Startup Disk. A boot disk can be made by copying the necessary startup files to a floppy disk.

Step 1

From the Windows 9x Desktop, go to **Start > Settings > Control Panel**.

What is the general purpose of the Control Panel?

Step 2

Once the Control Panel displays, double-click on the **Add/Remove Programs** icon. In the Add/Remove Programs Properties window, select the **Startup Disk** tab.

Step 3

Click the **Create Disk** button. A status bar will display indicating it is preparing the files needed for the Startup Disk. If the cab files are not available, Windows will prompt for the Windows 9x Installation CD.

Step 4

When the files for the Startup Disk have been collected, Windows will prompt you to label a disk and insert it into the drive. Click the **OK** button.

Step 5

Once the Startup Disk has been created, write protect the disk by moving the switch to the open position (the switch is located on the back of the disk at the top left corner).

Why is it important to write protect a bootable floppy disk?

Step 6

To finish the process, reboot the system to make sure the diskette works.

Troubleshooting

If you work on computers often enough, you will most likely come across a situation in which you will need a bootable floppy disk. If the operating system will not start, a floppy disk will be used to view the contents of the hard drive and begin the troubleshooting.

Reflection

What three files are needed in order for a floppy disk to boot properly?
