

LESSON 4

CREATE A RESCUE DISK

Windows 95 will create a startup disk so that you can start your computer from the A: or floppy drive should your hard drive fail to start. That's good, after a fashion. What you really need is a "rescue" disk that can start your computer and restore your original Windows 95 configuration. Now wouldn't that be great!

Microsoft, for reasons that I cannot explain, doesn't tell you that you do indeed have that capability. You'll need a system or bootable disk, and a program called "ERU.EXE". Which is located on your Windows 95 CD-ROM disk, usually under \OTHER\MISC\ERU.

First, let's make a system or boot disk. Here are the steps.

1. Place a floppy disk in drive a: (you will lose any information on that disk!)
2. Double click on my computer, and now click on the A drive.
3. Click on file, then on format.
4. Select "full" as the format type, and click on "copy system files".
5. Now click on start. When the disk is formatted, just click on close.

Now, wasn't that simple?

Here's how to turn that bootable disk into your very own rescue disk. With your newly made system disk in the A drive, click on start, and then click on find. Select files and folders, and type ERU.EXE. Now press the Enter key. If your computer can't find that file, place your Windows 95 CD-ROM disk in your CD-ROM drive. Now click again on find, and this time type in the letter that represents your CD-ROM drive. If you aren't sure, just double-click on my computer to display all of your drive letter information. If your CD-ROM drive is drive D, then you would type "d:\eru.exe" at the Find File prompt.

When Windows 95 locates ERU.EXE, double-click on it. You will see an information screen about ERU.EXE. Click on next, then select drive A: Now click on next. You'll be prompted through the rest of this process. When finished, you'll have a bootable restore disk, so when that dreaded day comes, you'll be prepared to restore vital system and configuration information.

If you have backed up your valuable data, you'll survive any crash. Take heed!

In next week's lesson, I'll show you how to clear the cache and improve the performance of your Internet browser.



