

LESSON 83

USING A WINDOWS 98 STARTUP DISK TO REINSTALL WINDOWS 98

Windows 98 lets you create a "startup" disk that includes "real-mode" drivers used to access your CD-ROM drive from a DOS prompt. This is really valuable when you have to reinstall Windows from a CD-ROM disk.

Creating the "startup" disk is easy. Double-click My Computer and then open Control Panel. Now double-click Add/Remove Programs and select the Startup Disk tab. Click Create Disk. You will be prompted to place a blank floppy disk in Drive A: and then click OK. You may be asked to insert the Windows 98 CD-ROM disk, or to identify an area on your hard drive that has the necessary drivers, usually C:\WIN98.

The question now is, how do you use the startup disk to access your CD-ROM drive? It may come to pass that Windows 98 just refuses to start, and you'll have to reinstall it using your Windows 98 CD-ROM disk. Here's what to do.

Place the "startup disk" in Drive A: and restart the computer. You may have to turn it off and then back on again. You will see a short list of startup options. Select Start Computer With CD-ROM Support. When the boot process is finished you will see A:\ at the prompt. Just above the A:\ you'll see the drive letter Windows assigned to your CD-ROM disk for this session.

Place your Windows 98 CD-ROM disk in the CD-ROM drive and, at the A:\ prompt, type "X:\SETUP" (without the quotes) where X is the drive letter Windows assigned to your CD-ROM drive. Now press the Enter key and Windows will start the setup program.

Why is the drive letter different from the drive letter your CD-ROM disk usually has in Windows? When you boot from the "startup" disk, Windows loads a 2MB virtual or "Ramdrive" that contains software tools used to diagnose common problems. This "Ramdrive" takes the next drive letter after your hard drive. Your CD-ROM drive usually moves down one letter, e.g. E:\ rather than D:\, its normal setting.

