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Please send your questions and suggestions to

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Program Description

It is recommended that NT Administrator creates Emergency Repair Disk (ERD) before and after installing new software, before making any changes to registry permissions, etc. **ERDisk** (R) is intended to simplify this task for medium-to-large size networks. ERDisk creates ERD for any number of NT workstations or servers remotely and saves ERDs in a specified location.

ERDisk installs ERD agent on every selected computer and runs NT command "rdisk -s" locally on those computers. After ERD is created ERD agent forces rdisk to skip steps of formatting floppy and transferring updated files to that floppy. Instead, ERDisk copies new files to the directory selected by an administrator. Administrator can create physical ERD any time later by copying the files, including hidden and system files to a diskette.

ERDisk allows you to create Emergency Repair Disks for one or a group of computers. A group of computers can be created using Export List function or any editor (e.g. Notepad). A group of computers can then be selected using Import List function.

Command line and /S switch processing has been added in ERDisk v 1.1. /S switch allows to schedule Emergency Repair Disks creation and updates.

Security concerns: Since the command executed by ERD agent is "rdisk -s", Windows NT security databases as well as other registry databases will be saved. The security database if accessed by unauthorized person can be used to run password dictionary attack. Therefore it is highly recommended to give only administrator full control to the directory where you store ERD files for your network and "No Access" to any other accounts. If you backup your ERD directories the backup tape must be held in a secure place and must not be accessible by anyone except NT administrators.

ERDisk is a must-have tool to avoid time consuming re-installations.

System Requirements

ERDisk™ is an Administrator tool for MS Windows NT™ 3.51 and 4.0.

The Windows NT Intel version requires Windows NT 3.51 or 4.0 server or Workstation on Intel platform. Only Intel Version is available at the moment. In a large network it is recommended that you run ERDisk on Windows NT server or Domain Controller with 64 Mg RAM.

DEMO Version

The DEMO version of ***ERDisk*** has the following specific features:

- license is limited to 5 computers.

The DEMO version is available for download from <http://www.NTsecurity.com>

How to Create Emergency Repair Disk(s)

Introduction

It is recommended that NT Administrator creates Emergency Repair Disk (ERD) before and after installing new software, making any changes to registry permissions, etc. **ERDisk (R)** is intended to simplify this task for medium-to-large size networks. ERDisk creates ERD for any number of NT workstations or servers remotely and saves ERDs in a specified location.

To Create Emergency Repair Disk

- Create a list of computers (Import List) using any editor (e.g. Notepad). You can use 'net view' command to list all computers in your domain. ERDisk reads the first word in each line of an input file (Import List) as a computer name and identifies the type of computer and the software version: Workstation (3.51 or 4.0), Server (3.51 or 4.0), PDC, BDC.

NOTE: COMPUTERTNAME and \\COMPUETERTNAME are treated the same way.

- Press *Import List* button and select an input file (Import Computer List) or use *Fresh List* button to list all alive computers of the default domain.
- Select all or any computers for which you need to create ERDs by highlighting them.
- In **Action** window select **Create Emergency Repair Disk...** to open **Create ERD Settings** menu.
- In **Create ERD Settings** menu select the **Output Directory** where you want the Emergency Repair Disks to be saved. If you type C:\DIRNAME\%COMPUTERTNAME% then ERDs will be saved in a separate subdirectory COMPUTERTNAME of C:\DIRNAME\ for each computer. The directory \DIRNAME must exist on drive C:.
- It takes a few minutes to create an ERD for each computer. Select time-out time after which the process of creating ERD will be terminated. The process will be terminated after it is successfully completed or after time-out.
- Press *Start* button. Selected computers will appear in **Create ERD** menu.
- Press *OK* button.
- The process of creating ERD will be started on all selected computers. **Creating ERD** menu shows the number of processes started and completed. Creating ERD takes a few minutes for each computer.
- Press *Cancel* button if you want to terminate the processes. Termination might take a few minutes.
- Press *Log File...* button. In **Options** menu press **View Log File** to read the log file.

New ERD files are placed in the selected directory. **You can create physical ERD any time when necessary by copying the files, including hidden and system files to a diskette.**

The default *Log File* options are *Full Log* and *Append to Log*. Open **Options** menu to change default settings.

For help with any dialog box, choose the Help button while using the dialog box.

See Also

[How to Create a List of Computers](#)
[Log File](#)

How to Create a List of Computers

To Create a List of Computers for which you want to create Emergency Repair Disks:

- Press *Fresh List* button to list all alive computers of the default domain. Press *Export List* button and save the list as a text file. You can edit the text file to create an Import List; or
- Use any text editor to create a computer list file as an input file (Import List)

NOTE: ERDisk reads the first word in each line of the input file (Import List) as a computer name and ignores the rest of the line.

Create ERD Menu

After you selected computers by highlighting them and pressed *Start* button, **Create ERD** Menu appears. **Create ERD** Menu shows a list of computers for which ERDs will be created. To create ERDs press *OK*. To select a different group of computers press *Cancel* and highlight different computer(s) or import a different computer list file.

See Also

[How to Create Emergency Repair Disk\(s\)](#)

Create ERD Settings Menu

To select or change the directory where ERDs will be saved or to change the process time-out select **Create Emergency Repair Disk...** in **Action** window in the main menu. In **Output Directory** window type the full path. You can use %COMPUTERNAME% to automatically create subdirectories for each computer ERD. E.g. if you type C:\DIRNAME%\%COMPUTERNAME% then ERD will be saved in a separate subdirectory COMPUTERNAME of C:\DIRNAME\ for each computer. In this example the directory DIRNAME must exist in the drive C:.

It takes a few minutes to create an ERD for each computer. Select time-out time after which the process of creating ERD for one computer will be terminated. The process will be terminated after it is successfully completed or after time-out. Recommended value for the time-out is 1200 seconds (20 minutes).

See Also

[How to Create Emergency Repair Disk\(s\)](#)

Command Line Arguments

Command line processing has been added in ERDisk v 1.1.

The following syntax is available:

ERDisk.exe [*FileName* [/S]]

where

FileName

- Optional name of an import file. The context of the file will be imported as a list of computers on program startup.

/S

- Optional Silent mode switch. This switch is useful if the program is used with Windows NT command line scheduler in the "silent mode". In the silent mode all parameters (ERD time-out, output directories, log file name etc.) are taken from the registry under the key:

HKLM\SOFTWARE\MWC\ERDisk

To modify these parameters use *Create ERD Settings* Menu.

See Also

[Create ERD Setting Menu](#)

Log File

Options menu appears when you press *Log File...* button of the main menu. To choose a log file use ... button in *Log File* window of the **Options** menu.

The following log file options are available:

- **Full Log** - to log all changes (default).
- **Error Log Only** - to log only changes that could not be made.
- **No Log**

You can also select *Append to Log* if you want new messages to be appended to the old log file or *Overwrite Log* to overwrite the old log file.

Log file settings stay the same even if you exit the program.

To view the log file press **View Log** button. The following is a log file format:

Descr	ComputerName	Operation	ErrorCode
Success	COMPUTERNAME	COMPLETED	
Error	COMPUTERNAME	CANCELLED	
...			

ErrorCode - NT error code.

The following errors might appear:

CANCELLED	process is canceled by user
AGENT_INSTALL	IRD agent could not be installed on a target machine
AGENT_RESPONSE	IRD agent does not respond
TIMEOUT	IRD could not be created within time-out time
OUT_DIR_CREATION	IRDisk could not create output directory
COPY_IRD	IRDisk could not write to the output directory
NO_LICENSES	license limits the number of IRDs created at the same time

Some of the errors might appear because of insufficient privileges to create IRD, create directory or to write to the selected directory.

For help with any dialog box, choose the Help button while using the dialog box.

Troubleshooting

You must have Administrator privileges on every computer for which you create ERD.

If, for any reason, execution of ERDisk has been terminated ungracefully (e.g. if the system reboot occurs while creating ERD's) you need to reboot every computer which was in the process of ERD creation. After rebooting those computers you can run ERDisk again.

See Also

[Log File](#)

Reporting Bugs

If you experience something you think might be a bug in ***ERDisk***, please report it by sending a message to **ERDisk@box.omna.com**

Thank you.

Suggestions

Please send any suggestions or requests for new features to **ERDisk@box.omna.com** Your input is always welcome and appreciated.

Thank you.

