

Casper XP 2.0

REVIEW DATE: 06.03.04

COMPANY:

Future Systems Solutions Inc

SPEC DATA

Price: \$44.95 Direct

Type: Personal

EDITOR RATING: ●●●●○

By Omar Cintron

Company:

Future Systems [Solutions](http://www.fssdev.com), www.fssdev.com

Price:

\$44.95 direct

Pros:

Easy to use, wizard-based drive [backup](#) and cloning. Hard drive utilities show [partition info](#), drive health.

Cons:

Cannot back up to CD or network drive. Supports only Windows 2000 and XP (separate utility included for Windows 9x systems).

Bottom Line:

A solid, easy-to-use choice for drive-to-drive backup.

Review

Those searching for an easy-to-use utility to back up a hard drive need look no further than Casper XP 2.0. Casper does an excellent job of... [click here for full review](#)

Casper XP: The Friendly Backup Utility

Those searching for an easy-to-use utility to back up a hard drive need look no further than Casper XP 2.0. Casper does an excellent job of demystifying the backup process, providing a simple, effective interface.

If the name Casper conjures up the popular Norton Ghost disk-imaging program, the reference is intentional: Casper bears some technological resemblance to Ghost. But whereas the Norton offering has a host of IT-focused functions, Casper focuses more narrowly on disk-to-disk backup. Casper can't save an image to a partition on the same hard drive as the one being backed up, and it doesn't clone drives to a retrievable image that can be saved to optical media or a network drive.

The program launches a neat-looking menu that includes all the software's usable options; there are no hidden settings. The first three options, Copy Drive, Create Drive, and Remove Drive, invoke easy-to-follow wizards.

The Copy Drive wizard copies the contents of a drive, including partition and boot-record information, onto another. If you upgrade to a larger hard drive, the software will automatically resize the partition on the target drive accordingly, which is a nice touch. Of course, you can also set the size of the new partition on the target drive manually.

The Create Drive wizard is the equivalent of using Windows' built-in drive-management console, except all the required tasks are done with minimal human intervention. Casper determines if there are additional hard drives present, and if those it finds have no data you want to keep, it will partition and format them. The Remove Drive wizard deletes existing partitions on hard drives other than the system drive.

Casper also includes a drive browser that displays partition information and the health status of existing drives, as well as a utility that fixes a master or volume boot record in the event that either record becomes corrupt.

The convenient Schedule Copy wizard can schedule background [backups](#) that occur as you work, ensuring that your drive is backed up regularly. There is no need to recall the last time a hard drive was copied, because the software also keeps a history listing every task performed, including a detailed report of each item. So although it's no Ghost, Casper XP may be all you need if you're looking for a simple, set-it-and-forget-it backup utility.

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