How to Mount ISO Files on Windows 7

First off if you are not familiar with **ISO** files, an **ISO** file is a file that is a disk image of a a CD disk or **DVD** disk. It is like a copy of the entire CD or **DVD** into a **ISO** image on your hard drive. These were typically used for copying or distributing a disk contents over the network.

This article does not condone the illegal copying of software. There are many legal uses for **ISO** images, and this article addresses those. For instance as a member of the Microsoft Developer Network (MSDN) I can receive certain software from Microsoft (legally) downloadable over the internet. This is the main purpose of mounting **ISO** images for me.

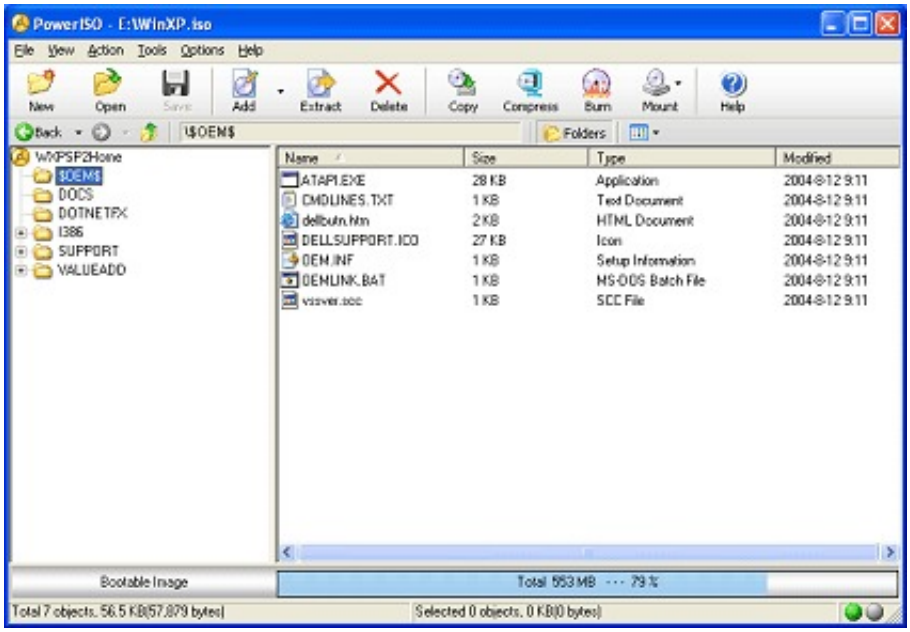
Originally the only thing that an **ISO** file for was good for was to use as the source when copying a CD or **DVD** to disk. You would download the **ISO**, then start up your CD or **DVD** copying software like Nero, and you would copy the **ISO** onto a **DVD** or CD disk.

In the past I have used programs like Nero, **Virtual Clone Drive** to mount an **ISO** under windows Vista, or Windows XP. After installing Windows 7, I discovered that these tools no longer worked for me to mount an **ISO**. I have hard that **Daemon Tools** has a component to do the same thing, but I doesn't work under windows 7 either.

I am sure over time all of these products will work eventually work under Windows 7, but currently the don't.

After some searching, I discovered that there was another product out there that would allow you to mount **ISO** files. This was PowerISO.

PowerISO does much more than mount **ISO** files, but I wasn't interested in the rest of that. There is a demo version of power **ISO** available that is limited after the trial period, but still allows you to mount **ISO** files.



After using PowerISO for a few days now, I highly recommend it as a tool to mount **ISO** files. I don't know about its other features, but it is fabulous for mounting **ISO** files under Window s 7.

Update Sept 20, 2009
I have been using PowerISO for 2 weeks now. The free trial has expired, and the **ISO** mounting component is still working great under Windows 7.