



What is a USB FLASH DRIVE? and What Can It Do for You!

USB flash drives are compact and easy-to-use devices that are similar in use to your computer hard drive. USB flash drives slip into your pocket, conveniently around your neck or on a keychain for ultimate portable storage. USB flash drives finally fulfill the real promise of the digital age: complete freedom and mobility.

Despite the different brands and names you've heard for USB flash drives – JumpDrives™, Pocket drives™, Pen drives™, and Thumb drives™ – they all pretty much operate the same way. The difference is mostly in price, capacity, design, functions and features (for example, some have built-in MP3 players). What's really important, though, is what they share: They're all pluggable, portable, and powerful!

USB flash drives share some other characteristics, too.

- **USB flash drives weigh about the same as a car key – in fact, some USB flash drives are so lightweight that hypothetically it could take 14 ants to carry one!**
- **USB flash drives are about the size of a stick of gum.**
- **USB flash drives currently can hold up to thirty-two gigs of data – that's over 30,000 three-minute songs (1000 hours) recorded as MP3s or about forty times the content of a standard compact disc.**
- **If you share a computer, USB flash drives are a great way to store personal information – use them in addition to the computer's hard drive.**
- **According to some manufacturer's specifications, USB flash drives can maintain data for 10 years – in that same period you'll probably have to replace your computer's hard drive three times.**

USB hard drives are a wonderful way to carry your files with you between work and home. They're light and durable.

A good house-keeping tip for USB Flash Drive owners...

1. Never pull the USB drive from your computer without using the software eject option; On Windows, click on the little gray brick with the green arrow, on your taskbar at the lower-right corner of the screen (by your clock), and click on 'Safely remove USB device', then pull out the drive.
On the Mac OS, drag the USB drive icon to the eject option on your dock.
2. Don't over-fill your USB hard-drive. It is reported that occasionally when you over-fill one with too many files, it can loop around and over-write the beginning of the drive where the index to the drive is stored. It then appears empty or un-formatted.
3. Always have another copy of the files somewhere else.
4. Never have only copy of important files on a USB hard drive.
5. If your USB flash drive appears to be damaged, the files may be recoverable. Do not format it or erase it...send it to me and I'll see what I can do.

To Read More About USB Flash Drives:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USB_Flash_Drive

<http://www.answers.com/topic/keydrive>

USB Flash Drives FAQs

Q. How do I use a USB Flash Drive?

A. Just plug your USB flash drive into the USB port of your computer or other USB-equipped device and drag the files you want to take with you into the folder that appears on your screen. Your files are instantly transferred to your USB flash drive. To transfer the items on your USB flash drive onto another computer, simply plug your USB flash drive into the computer that you want the files transferred to, open the folder that appears on your screen, and drag the desired files onto the computer's desktop.

Q. Will my USB Flash Drive work with any computer?

A. USB flash drives are using the USB protocol to interoperate with PCs (Macs too!) and devices with a USB port. Typically USB Flash Drives use mass storage class drivers that are incorporated in Windows Me, Windows 2000 and Windows XP or later as well as Mac OS 9 and Mac OS X or later as well as Linux 2.4.6 or later. Some manufacturers offer drivers for Windows 98 SE or Windows NT.

Q. How much data can a USB Flash Drive hold?

A. USB flash drives are currently available with up to 32 GB storage capacity, and are available in a variety of storage sizes for different needs. For reference, a 2 GB USB flash drive can hold about 250 songs in MP3 format.

Q. What are the advantages of using a USB Flash Drive instead of a CD-R or DVD-R?

A. USB ports are much more common than CD and especially DVD burners, so your USB flash drive will work with more computers than a CD-R or DVD-R. Also, the process of uploading files from your computer to a USB flash drive is much faster and simpler than burning a CD or DVD.

Additionally, USB flash drives act like portable hard drives to which you can add and delete files as many times as you like. With CD-Rs and DVD-Rs, you can only add data once, and you can't remove data once it's burned onto the disc.

Q. What are the advantages of using a USB Flash Drive instead of a Floppy Disc?

A. A standard floppy disc can hold 1.44 MB, which is many times less storage space than a USB flash drive.

Q. What are the advantages of using a USB Flash Drive instead of an External Hard Drive?

A. At the size of a pack of gum, USB flash drives are far smaller than external hard drives, and with no fragile moving parts that can break if dropped, they're more easily transported. USB flash drives also do not require the time-consuming configuration required to connect an external hard drive to your computer.

Q: Who are USB Flash Drives for?

A. USB flash drives are for everyone! Power users will appreciate the power and portability that USB flash drives provide, while tech novices will love how easily and intuitively USB flash drives allow you to share files. If you can turn on a computer and open a document, you can operate a USB flash drive!

Q. Do I need a USB Flash Drive?

A. If you often find yourself in need of a way to share information between computers, or want to secure your most precious computer data, USB flash drives are for you. With USB flash drives you can transport a PowerPoint file to your client's office for presentation, work on documents from home and then bring them back with you to work in the morning, bring thousands of digital photos across the country to share with your relatives, and much more.