

# Writing UDF Formatted Disks with Hard Links and Symbolic Links

**Source:**

[http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Win2000/microsoft.public.win2000.file\\_system/2004-03/0191.html](http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Win2000/microsoft.public.win2000.file_system/2004-03/0191.html)

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Windows 98/Me, Windows 2000, and Windows XP all include the ability to read CDs and DVDs that are created using some version of the UDF file system specification. For 98/Me it is UDF version 1.02, for 2K it is 1.5, and for XP it is 2.01 I believe. The UDF (ECMA 167) specifications (version 2.5, and earlier?) include the ability to create hard links (Level 1) and symbolic links (Level 2).

Windows XP also includes the ability to write to CDs and DVDs, but doesn't yet support writing UDF formatted disks. Numerous Windows based third party applications (e.g. Easy CD Creator, Nero) do include the ability to write UDF formatted disks. However, none of the Windows based applications that I have looked at so far appear to have the ability to create hard links and/or symbolic links.

1. When is support for writing directly to UDF formatted disks planned for the Windows OS?
2. Will Windows support for writing UDF formatted disks include the ability to create multiple hard links to the same file or folder (required by the Level 1 UDF spec), and/or the ability to create symbolic links (required by the UDF Level 2 spec)?
3. Are there any existing Windows based third party applications that currently support creating multiple hard links to the same file or folder, and/or the ability to create symbolic links on a UDF formatted disk?

Thanks,  
s/KAM