

Re: Problem Formatting an External hard drive

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.basics/2006-06/msg00874.html>

- *From:* "POP" <nobody@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Wed, 14 Jun 2006 09:22:25 -0400
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The drivers I referred to would not reside ON the external drive, but would reside in the windows operating system. They tell the system how to access the drive. IF there are drivers, they should have been supplied on floppy or CD with the drive. They may not be required, which might explain why there are none on the CD.

If there is no "install" components other than the backup software, then you probably don't need drivers.

I do know that, to be recognized, a hard drive does have to have an MBR (Master Boot Record) written to it. Usually the MBR is written when a partition is created. In my experience, which isn't great, fdisk is the program which creates partitions and prepares the disk to be formatted.

Here's a link that may help you:

<http://support.microsoft.com/?kbid=313348>

It talks a lot about prepping a disk for the OS, but all the other uses are mentioned there too, along with a couple good links such as:
255867 (<http://support.microsoft.com/kb/255867/>) How to use the Fdisk tool and the Format tool to partition or to repartition a hard disk

Give those a read and see if it doesn't help.

Until fdisk, or its equivalent, has been run, it's my understanding that hte disk is not yet ready to be formatted. fdisk must come before formatting.

HTH,
Pop

PT wrote:

That's what I thought. But the CD that came with the drive

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