

# Re: USB connected HDs

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*Source:*

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.general/2007-01/msg08244.html>

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- *From:* "Jeff" <[jeff@xxxxxxxx](mailto:jeff@xxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Mon, 22 Jan 2007 23:21:36 -0500
- 

Ron Sommer wrote:

"Jeff" <[jeff@xxxxxxxx](mailto:jeff@xxxxxxxx)> wrote in message  
<news:OVCK6UpPHHA.2340@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

Anna wrote:

Ron Sommer wrote:

"Jeff" <[jeff@xxxxxxxx](mailto:jeff@xxxxxxxx)>  
wrote in message  
<news:uddnO7lPHHA.4172@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

Anna wrote:

"Jeff"  
<[jeff@xxxxxxxx](mailto:jeff@xxxxxxxx)>  
wrote  
in  
message  
<news:uTCCuGgPHHA.1248@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

I  
purchased  
a  
Sata/IDE  
to  
USB  
Adapter  
to  
work  
with  
6  
old  
IDE  
hard  
drives  
I

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accumulated  
from  
other  
PCs  
over  
the  
years.  
I  
connected  
the  
included  
external  
power  
adapter  
to  
the  
HD  
and  
the  
USB  
adapter  
to  
the  
USB  
2  
ports  
on  
a  
PC  
running  
XP  
SP2.

These  
PC  
USB  
ports  
work  
perfectly  
with  
other  
backup  
external  
HDs  
I  
own  
and  
with  
USB  
flash  
drives.

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But:  
I  
cannot  
get  
my  
old  
HDs  
to  
show  
up  
on  
the  
PCs  
using  
the  
adapter  
cable.

I  
tried  
this  
with  
2  
different  
PCs,  
both  
running  
XP  
SP2  
and  
had  
the  
same  
problem  
with  
ALL  
my  
old  
IDE  
harddrives  
(set  
with  
jumper  
as  
"MA")  
using  
the  
adapter,  
so  
I  
do

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not  
think  
it  
is  
a  
case  
of  
the  
HDs  
being  
bad  
or  
the  
PCs  
and  
their  
USB  
ports  
being  
bad.

What  
happens  
in  
all  
cases  
is:  
1)  
the  
lights  
light  
up  
on  
the  
adapter  
showing  
it  
to  
be  
connected.  
2)  
the  
icon  
showing  
that  
a  
USB  
device  
is  
connected  
shows

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on  
the  
Windows  
taskbar,  
and  
when  
hovered  
on  
says  
there  
is  
a  
storage  
drive  
connected.  
BUT,  
a)  
no  
drive  
shows  
up  
in  
"My  
Computer",  
even  
on  
repeated  
refresh.  
b)  
Computer  
management  
/  
Disk  
Management  
/  
does  
not  
reveal  
the  
presence  
of  
the  
USB  
adapter  
connected  
HD  
c)  
Device  
Manager  
shows  
(under

Re: USB connected HDs

USB  
controllers)  
that  
a  
storage  
device  
is  
present  
and  
enabled  
and  
working  
correctly.

\*Do  
I  
have  
to  
do  
anything  
in  
XP  
to  
make  
My  
computer  
show  
the  
HDs  
attached  
to  
the  
PC  
with  
the  
USB  
adapter?

Thank  
you.

Jeff

Anna  
wrote:

Jeff:  
I'm

Re: USB connected HDs

assuming  
you're  
working  
with  
one  
of  
these  
small,  
"hold-in-the-palm"  
adapters.

It  
could  
be  
the  
adapter  
itself.  
As  
a  
matter  
of  
fact  
it  
probably  
\*is\*  
the  
adapter.  
Our  
experience  
with  
these  
type  
of  
devices  
has  
been,  
by  
&  
large,  
quite  
negative.  
To  
the  
point  
where  
we  
rarely  
recommend  
them.  
In  
our

Re: USB connected HDs

experience,  
we've  
come  
across  
too  
many  
defective  
adapters  
in  
that  
they  
didn't  
work  
at  
all  
or  
worked  
fitfully.  
Hopefully,  
you  
have  
return  
privileges  
for  
the  
device  
and  
if  
so,  
you  
may  
want  
to  
exchange  
it  
for  
another  
one  
–  
trusting  
that  
that  
one  
will  
work  
as  
advertised.  
Anna

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"Jeff"  
<jeff@xxxxxxx>  
wrote  
in  
message  
[news:e26vuQIPHHA.3624@xx](mailto:news:e26vuQIPHHA.3624@xx)  
Yes  
I  
am.  
Actually  
it  
is  
a  
Vantec  
SATA/IDE  
to  
USB  
Adapter  
I  
picked  
up  
at

MicroCenter  
for  
\$29.  
There  
was  
another  
one  
also  
sold  
at  
MicroCenter  
for  
the  
same  
price  
made  
by  
a  
different  
manufacturer  
that  
I  
could  
try.  
I  
just  
have  
a

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sneaky  
feeling  
the  
problem  
is  
not  
with  
the  
adapter  
but  
with  
my  
jumper  
settings.

I  
can  
easily  
return  
it  
but  
I  
am  
only  
using  
it  
to  
access  
these  
old  
HDs  
from  
long  
gone  
PCs  
that  
I  
want  
to  
be  
able  
to  
wipe  
clean  
so  
I  
can  
safely  
throw  
them  
out.

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Using  
an  
IDE-USB  
adapter  
seemed  
to  
be  
the  
only  
easy  
way  
I  
could  
get  
to  
wipe  
these  
old  
HDs.  
  
Jeff

Jeff:  
As  
it  
happens... Vantec  
is  
one  
of  
the  
more  
reliable  
brands  
in  
our  
experience  
so  
perhaps  
the  
problem  
is  
not  
with  
the  
device  
as  
I  
suspected.  
The

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type  
of  
adapters  
I  
was  
referring  
to  
was  
primarily  
the  
ubiquitous  
no-name  
generic  
"brands".  
But  
since  
you  
indicated  
this  
non-recognition  
problem  
exists  
for  
all  
six  
(6)  
HDDs  
and  
with  
two  
different  
PCs  
it  
was  
(is)  
hard  
to  
escape  
the  
conclusion  
that  
a  
defective  
device  
is  
the  
culprit,  
inasmuch  
as  
you've  
indicated

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that  
there's  
no  
problem  
with  
device-recognition  
affecting  
your  
other  
USB  
devices.  
We're  
assuming  
in  
all  
this,  
of  
course,  
that  
you've  
properly  
connected  
the  
device  
to  
your  
HDD(s)  
both  
with  
respect  
to  
the  
gizmo  
itself  
and  
the  
auxiliary  
power  
supply  
connector.

I  
really  
don't  
think  
HDD  
jumper  
configuration  
is  
at  
the

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root  
of  
this  
problem  
as  
you  
suspect  
in  
another  
of  
your  
posts.  
And  
since  
you  
also  
indicate  
that  
all  
you  
want  
to  
do  
is  
"wipe  
them  
clean"  
before  
junking  
them,  
why  
don't  
you  
simply  
install  
each  
as  
an  
internal  
HDD  
in  
one  
of  
your  
machines  
and  
use  
Disk  
Management  
to  
perform

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that  
operation  
and  
be  
done  
with  
it?  
Anna

Thanks Ana

That is what  
I will end  
up doing. It  
just  
"seemed"  
seductively  
easier to  
just connect  
the USB  
adapter than  
open the  
case,  
remove  
an installed  
HD and add  
the old HD,  
etc. Had I  
gone that  
route, I  
probably  
would have  
been all  
finished by  
now <grin>.

Ah well.

Jeff

"Jeff" <jeff@xxxxxxx> wrote in message  
[news:ul9svNnPHHA.3552@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:ul9svNnPHHA.3552@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

It is not necessary to  
physically mount the drive  
in the case.  
The simplest is to use the  
DVD/CD cable.

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This eliminates having to mess with the jumpers on the old drive.

Just support the drive so there is no chance of touching the circuitboard on the drive to the computer case.

Formatting by its self will not clean the drive.

Format, then write zeroes to the drive.

<http://www.microsoft.com/technet/sysinternals/FileAndDisk/SDelete.mspx>

"Jeff" <jeff@xxxxxxxx> wrote in message  
<news:ul9svNnPHHA.3552@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

Yes I am aware that formating or just deleting are not sufficient.

I was planning to over write them with a wipe utility.

By "DVD/CD cable" do you mean the cables that are presently connected to my CD and DVD drives? Will doing that permit me to use a wipe utility (sDelete or others) to overwrite them?

Jeff

Jeff:  
Ronald's suggestion is a good one. We do this all the time. But we're a bit leery about recommending that approach to someone who has had no experience fiddling around with the "innards" of a machine. We've encountered too many situations where the user lost his or her HDD because it wasn't propped up securely against the machine. A HDD that falls to the floor is not a desirable thing. But if you're careful, it's certainly an expedient way to go.

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Anyway, what Ronald is apparently referring to is the IDE (signal/data) ribbon cable that's used to connect IDE devices such

as the ones connected to your other HDD and your optical drive(s).

Use whatever is available and is relatively easy to get to. If, for

example, you have only your boot HDD connected to a IDE cable and

the middle connector of that cable is free (no Slave connected),

then you could use that for a connection to the HDD you're planning

to format. Doesn't matter in this case whether the HDD is connected

as Master or Slave – just jumper it accordingly. Anna

Thank you. That's what I will plan to do.

You guys have been very helpful.

Jeff

You could have a problem with the boot order of hard drives.

IDE drives usually are listed before SATA drives.

If you connect a bootable IDE drive, it will try to boot.

If the IDE drive tries to boot, check the boot order.

Thank you.

Jeff

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