

Re: raw file system ?

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.general/2007-04/msg04960.html>

- *From:* "Poprivet" <poprivet@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Tue, 17 Apr 2007 13:24:06 -0400
-

oldman wrote:

Thanks, the actual message from the system was 'unable to complete format'. I think my PC has gone loco, the last accessible floppy I have is now no longer accessible by my drive A. I now have to live by without floppies.

Ah, I think that clinches it. Your floppy drive has gone belly up for whatever reason. If you really are attached to the whirrs and grinds of a floppy they are real cheap these days; I've seen them for as low as \$10 and even Radio Shack carries them. Or ours here does anyway. For, I think, \$19.

If you decide it's worth changing though, first do this:

— locate the power connector (4 thick wires usually), Disconnect it from the drive and plug it back in.

— locate the data cable; flat, probably grey cable. Disconnect it from the drive and plug it back in, the repeat at the other end of the cable.

Reseating connectors is always one thing to do if you open your computer; often it can solve the problems.

It's an easy change-out if you decide to try it. Since you seem to already have what you need off your floppies though, I'd probably just forget it and ignore the floppy drive. Switch the effort to being certain you have everything backed up and archived for future needs.

FWIW, I have an old tower I keep around with two 3.5" and two 5 1/4" drives in it, plus a SCSI CD r/w, for the sole purpose of transferring files for folks. I even had one request to recover some hard-sectored floppies once but I turned it down; no way anything on the disks they had would work on anything today; they were all CP/M diskettes, it turned out, and they didn't want to pay anything for the exchange <g>. I do a lot of gratis work, but that was one step too far.

HTH
Pop`

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oldman wrote:

Hi Bill,
I tried but didn't get very far, here's what happened.
I tried to prepare a new floppy to be the destination disk, it was loaded and the usual response from the system is that the disk is not formatted would you like to proceed which I did and the result was that it cannot be formatted, I tried on a few blank floppies and result is still the same. My floppy A drive cannot format a brand new floppy.

Hmm, that's odd since it's not just one but a bunch of floppies. What was the exact error message? If those floppies had two holes in the top edge, one with a slider, they might be set to read-only, in which case you wouldn't be able to format them. When the hole is covered, the disk can be written to. So, if there are two open holes, look for a little slider in one of them and slide it down to cover the hole. It's blocking an LED inside the drive that tells it the drive is OK to write to. One easy thing to check, at least. Another remote possibility is that the disks you tried and failed to format, are a bad production batch. Unusual but it doesn't happen. Now, it IS possible, if those floppies are very old, that there just is not enough magnetic properties left on the disk surface to be able to hold a format. But I'd expect that to show up during, not before, the format operation. I can say with confidence though, that MS OS can indeed format floppies if they are installed. Many computers no longer include floppy drives these days.

... Not satisfied I load the one and only useable floppy disk in and I was able to access and update those files and documents in it
– conclusion my floppy A drive is alive and kicking.

That's good; it says that the LED in the drive AND the drive mechanism is all working reasonably well.

I was not able to

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try copy disk on my ancient floppy game disk. My assessment is that after XP SP2 updates, changes made to the operation of floppies resulted in rendering the system unable to format new floppies thus accelerating the demise of floppies (I read somewhere that a major UK computer store will in the near future stop stocking floppies). Any assistance in temporarily prolonging the lives of my floppy collections will be appreciated.

No, SP2 made no changes in the ability to format floppies; I have formatted many of them on this XP Pro machine and others, too, including a win2k and XP Home. They ARE falling from favor and many places are finding dwindling sales and are preparing to stop selling them, but the OS still supports them. Again, I just popped the floppy I destroyed in proving the "RAW" file message earlier into the drive, and it formatted just fine. Then I grabbed new, never formatted floppy and formatted it, too. One last possibility that just occurred to me is that the old floppy might not be the proper density, dependign on just how old it is. There are 90k 180k, 360k, and 1.44Meg floppies, even some slightly larger with an FDFormat.

To "preserve" a floppy, you have to "refresh" or "rewrite" the magnetic markings to the disc inside the plastic housing. You can refresh a floppy by simply copying all of the files on it to your PC, any folder of your choice, and THEN copy everything back to it. For very old floppies, it would also be a good idea to Format them before writing the information back to them. The Copy process does not copy the sector markings on a floppy; only the data, while Format rewrites all the sector markings and checks the disk for bad sectors at the same time. I did a quick look for refresh.com, a program that will do all that in one step, but I can't find it. IF I think of it later I'll search my archives for it and see what I can find. I do know now that it was part of the old Norton V4 tools for MSDOS.

HTH

Pop`

—

Most people agree that if you have to go,
drowning in varnish provides
the best finish.

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The (small) hope was that the copy process would succeed in producing a disk that was error free. If you're able to read the directory, it is not in Raw.format.

"oldman"

<oldman@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

wrote in message

news:FF681842-236D-4361-81E8-22114C3B92A0@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

The floppy disk drive works fine, the only problem was this ancient RAW formatted disk that the system was unable to accept.

Isn't copying to another floppy disk (assume able to copy disk) would require the floppy disk drive to accept RAW format (unless when copying, the system will convert the resultant copy being in a format acceptable by the system). Nevertheless I thank you for the guidance.

Thanks and regards

"Bill Blanton" wrote:

Try cleaning the hardware with a floppy disk head cleaner after blowing it

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out with
compressed
air.

If that
doesn't
work..try
copying the
floppy to
another.
Right click
(A:.)> Copy
Disk...

"oldman"
<oldman@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
wrote in
message
news:8C664DB2-9A11-4E7C-B584-513003693764@xxxxxxxxxxxx

I
have
an
ancient
floppy
-Best
of
Microsoft
Entertainment
Pack
(Disk
format:
High-density(1.44MB)
Version
1.0
which
I
tried
to
load
through
my
floppy
drive
A
connected
by
USB

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to
my
PC
(XP+MCE).
I
scanned
the
floppy
with
AVG
and
was
reported
clean,
I
than
clicked
Drive
A
for
properties
and
noted
that
the
disk
was
formatted
under
RAW.
I
next
left
clicked
Drive
A
and
the
directory
of
the
floppy
was
displayed,
I
than
left
clicked
Setup
and
the

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problem
occurred,
the
system
came
back
with
an
error
message
that
the
floppy
is
to
be
formatted,
I
was
never
able
to
get
rid
of
this
error
message
(my
event
viewer
indicated
warning
sfloppy
event51
and
error
sfloppy
event7)
in
the
end
there
was
a
stack
of
this
error
notifications
and

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my
PC
hung.
I
hope
this
will
provide
more
information
to
Ken
Blake
with
the
view
to
assist
II
--
oldman
trying
to
understand
computers

"II"
wrote:

what
is
raw
file
system
and
why
my
floppy
disk
was
changed
to
this
system
from
fat
file
system
without

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my
knowledge
making
it
not
useable?

i
tried
to
format
it
by
my
pc
does
not
allow
it.