

microsoft.public.windowsxp.hardware: Re: Can a new Mac export to an XP drive?

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**From:** Vanguardx (*see\_signature*)

**Date:** 09/08/04

Date: Tue, 7 Sep 2004 22:50:58 -0500

"Peter" <Peter@discussions.microsoft.com>

wrote in news:C9504020-1F24-4D3E-B69E-B3E6832990EC@microsoft.com:

> *Fomat your ext. Hdd as basic disk with FAT 32 file format.*

> *You can use the XP disk management feature to format it at any time.*

Be careful with reformatting advice. The OP said, "Mine in NTFS with XP on it." It looks like the OP has Windows XP installed on that external drive (don't know why but that's what he said). If the partition to be reformatted is a different one that where Windows XP is installed and has nothing of value on it or was backed up (and *\*verified\** to be readable backup media – backup without verification is playing Russian Roulette), or if the partition has Windows XP and the OP doesn't care about losing that install, then they can use the Disk Management applet in Windows XP to reformat that partition. There is the safety that Disk Management will not let you format the partition from which the current instance of the operating system is running, but that might not be the instance of Windows XP that the OP mentioned is installed on the external drive.

While you can use 'convert' to switch from FAT32 to NTFS, there is no utility (provided by Microsoft) to switch from NTFS to FAT32, so the switch is destructive because you have to **FORMAT** the partition and wipe everything on it to get to using FAT32. If the Windows XP install on the external drive is important and must stick, and since it uses NTFS, and if that is the only partition then using PartitionMagic or other 3rd party software to resize partition(s) and create a new FAT32 in the then unallocated space seems the only way to solve his drive-toting file-transfer problem.