

Re: < 32 GB partitions only at external hard drive

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 - *Date:* Sun, 10 Apr 2005 07:44:47 -0500
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While XP has a limit of 32 Gig for creating FAT32 partitions, it has no limit on NTFS partitions. I have made NTFS partitions up to 120 Gig on a USB hard drive with XP.

If you are having trouble with NTFS of any size, that is NOT normal for XP. In fact, XP normally defaults to doing NTFS.

Potential problems could be:

1. PC's motherboard BIOS does not support large disks, meaning disks bigger than about 127 Gig. Or, if a really old PC upgraded to XP, then the BIOS limit could be as low as 32 Gig. Check the PC or motherboard maker for details. While this is more a problem for internal disks, a sufficiently old PC might also have trouble with large external disks.
2. XP does not automatically support disks larger than 127 Gig, even if the BIOS can handle them. You need at least SP-1 and you need to enable 48-bit LBA.
3. Maybe some part of the XP installation is corrupt. Think about running SFC /SCANNOW. Have your XP CDROM handy. Or, try a repair install of XP using the XP CDROM. Be careful, the difference between a repair instal and a clean install is only a few mouse clicks, and a clean install will erase everything first. If you do a repair, remeber o immediatly run windows update, snce a repair removes all updates newer than the date on the CDROM.
4. Try using the XP recovery console to make partitions. This is run from the XP CDROM.
5. Use third-party software to make partitions. For example, Partition Magic can work on an external drive and is not limited to 32Gig for FAT32. It can also do NTFS.

Finally, cionsider using a different PC, also running XP, to format the hard drive.

Re: < 32 GB partitions only at external hard drive

"ko" <KOtto@xxxxxxxx> wrote in message
news:81d38d4b.0504100125.762c2b14@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

> Hi all,
>
> recently I bought a 250 GB hard drive to connect on my usb2.0 port.
> But disk management in XP pro cannot build partitions bigger than
> 32GB. So far I have created 3 partions of 32GB fat32, which works fine
> but a partition of 32 GB NTFS is not possible or a partition of 64 GB
> NTFS: in both cases the format step stops at 100% saying that it could
> not be completed. Maybe important: on my notebook it has been no
> problem to create to 100 GB partitions.
>
> Does anyone have a solution?
>
> Thanks in advance,
> KO.

• **Follow-Ups:**

- ◆ **Re: < 32 GB partitions only at external hard drive**
◇ From: ko

• **References:**

- ◆ **< 32 GB partitions only at external hard drive**
◇ From: ko

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