

## Re: USB Flash write proctected!

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*Source:*

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.hardware/2008-10/msg00256.html>

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- *From:* "M.I.5¾" <[no.one@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:no.one@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Thu, 9 Oct 2008 09:43:35 +0100
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"Paul" <[nospam@xxxxxxxxxx](mailto:nospam@xxxxxxxxxx)> wrote in message [news:gck4p2\\$u53\\$1@xxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:gck4p2$u53$1@xxxxxxxxxx)

Susan wrote:

Hi,

I am using Microsof Windows XP SP2. When I connect my flash 1GB Transcand, it says write protected. So, I can not paste, delete or format.

I have tried to format if from Disk Management and from command prompt but it still doesnot work. I have no idea about it.

Anyone, could you please help me with this?

I look forward to hearing from you.

Thanks in advance.

Yours sincerely,

Susan

See "USB drive appears to be write protected"

[http://www.uwe-sieber.de/usbtrouble\\_e.html](http://www.uwe-sieber.de/usbtrouble_e.html)

Helpful though that site is, the info on the life limitation of FLASH memory is not entirely accurate (and I don't blame the author as this information is not exactly given a high profile by the manufacturers). It is only the housekeeping part of the FLASH memory that has a life of 100,000 erase/write cycles. The memory cells that actually store the data have no such claim

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and have a much shorter life. In general this shouldn't pose a problem because the actual data memory is written much less frequently than the housekeeping block (which is erased and written for \*every\* change to the stored data). As the ewe-sieber site, states once the data blocks have ceased to function properly, the memory can become read only. It can also fail to function completely with a range of symptoms. The life of the data block can be less or more than the average life with some extreme examples of FLASH memory chips failing after a relatively few write cycles.

Since you have eliminated a write protect switch and a write protect registry entry, it seems most likely that your USB stick has failed.