

## Re: External drive not accessible

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*Source:*

[http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.help\\_and\\_support/2007-06/msg00001.htm](http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.help_and_support/2007-06/msg00001.htm)

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- *From:* Derek Peters <[DerekPeters@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:DerekPeters@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Thu, 31 May 2007 14:23:02 -0700
- 

The laptop properties sheet lists Type: Basic and Partition Style: MBR. Should I try to reformat the drive with a different partition? By the way, apologies for the double post, my browser reported 'web page unavailable' when I first tried so I was surprised to see two postings when I came back.

"Bill Blanton" wrote:

That is the desktop's properties sheet? What does the laptop's sheet say?

"Partition Style: Not Applicable" applies to removables which do not have a partition structure. Does the laptop, which apparently is still able to access the disk, list the "Style" as "Not Applicable" or does it list "MBR"? If the latter, then the laptop would be structuring the disk as a fixed disk. Though unusual it can happen, and would create a problem if then read as a removable disk.

"Derek Peters" <[DerekPeters@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:DerekPeters@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)> wrote in message <news:33265AF1-0371-4D85-BBA2-DFCEDD75E2BB@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

I wish I had even a glimmer of understanding about what's going on here Bill.

The first time I tried a format from cmd I got an error message 'partition unreadable' Now I have 'Drive does not exist' while at the same time the properties in Device Manager tell me the volume is Type: Unknown, Status: Unreadable, Partition Style: Not applicable.

The unit is a Maxtor so it should be ok, what is happening with my windows OS?

"Bill Blanton" wrote:

Using the desktop, try a format from a cmd prompt and see if that produces anything, error message or otherwise.

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Start > Run... > cmd  
format X: /fs:ntfs (where X: is the drive letter of the RAW  
volume)

Is the drive seen as "Removable" on the laptop? How is it  
seen  
on the desktop? Device Manager > Disk drives >  
YourUSBdrive >  
properties > Volumes > Populate  
Read the "type" field. It should list "Removable" or "Basic".

"Derek Peters"

<DerekPeters@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in  
message

[news:99CC374F-BC7B-4A34-9318-8B06D241E9FB@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:99CC374F-BC7B-4A34-9318-8B06D241E9FB@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

You're right Billy, the RAW description is in  
the properties sheet, there is  
an option to format but when I click on it  
nothing happens. I haven't  
installed any security/encryption on the  
external drive, I just let the  
laptop write data to it. When it wouldn't  
work on the desktop I re-attached  
to the laptop and formatted in NTFS and  
tried a cold boot on the desktop with  
the drive attached and live, but to no avail.

"Bill Blanton" wrote:

"Derek Peters"

<DerekPeters@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>  
wrote in message

[news:AEA36A51-5671-4D6F-93AC-A97FC81DC068@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:AEA36A51-5671-4D6F-93AC-A97FC81DC068@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

I have a  
USB  
external  
drive which  
works  
perfectly  
with my  
laptop but  
not with  
my desktop.  
Both run  
XP Home  
SP2, and  
the drive is

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formatted in  
NTFS but  
the  
desktop  
reads it as  
RAW so  
will not  
read from it  
or write to  
it; when I  
try  
to use it I  
get an error  
message that  
"path could  
not be  
found". On  
the  
desktop  
Windows  
Explorer  
assigns it a  
drive letter,  
Device  
Manager  
states it  
is working  
normally  
but Disc  
Manager  
does not list  
it. How do I  
make the  
desktop  
recognise  
the NTFS  
file system?  
The hard  
drive on  
this  
machine is  
NTFS,  
nothing is  
RAW  
which  
according to  
Windows  
Help was  
only used in  
ME/2000.  
PLease

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help!

I assume you mean it shows  
"RAW" in the volume's  
properties sheets.  
Raw in this case means the  
partition is not formatted.  
Does "properties"  
show an option to format?  
You might try that, though  
that doesn't explain  
why the disk isn't being seen  
at all in the disk manager.  
Did you install  
any security/encryption  
software for the drive on the  
laptop?