

Re: External drive not accessible

Source:

http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.help_and_support/2007-06/msg00012.htm

- *From:* "Bill Blanton" <bblanton@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Thu, 31 May 2007 19:56:23 -0400
-

So basically it boils down to the laptop seeing the disk as a fixed disk, with a partition structure, and the desktop seeing the disk as a removable, and expecting a boot sector where the MBR is located.

What is the make/model/size of the drive?

Did it come preformatted?

Did you install drivers on the laptop?

How does the BIOS report the drive? Any config options?

My initial reaction would be to remove the device in device manager, but I doubt that it would be seen any differently on the reboot. If you wipe it completely and format it as a removable on the desktop, there's a chance that the laptop would then have the problem.

"Derek Peters" <DerekPeters@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message <news:E35593D6-FACB-4506-B80C-F9569F717017@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

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 unavailabe' 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,

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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@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> 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.

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

You're right Billy, the RAW description is in the properties sheet, there is an option to format but

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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@xxxxxxxxxx

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
formatted

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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

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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
help!

I assume
you mean it
shows
"RAW" in
the
volume's

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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?