

Re: Networking and External USB HardDrives?

Source:

http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.network_web/2005-12/msg00040.html

- *From:* "Jim" <null@xxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Wed, 30 Nov 2005 19:38:09 -0800
-

"Lazy Senior" <lazysenior@xxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
[news:h2tjf.6824\\$AB2.5842@xxxxxxxxxxxx](news:h2tjf.6824$AB2.5842@xxxxxxxxxxxx)

>

>> Oh, and one more thing, if you decide to use external storage, it's worth it

>> to get a firewire interface, or at least usb+firewire. Firewire is

>> invariably much faster than USB, perhaps 30-50% in some cases. It's well

>> worth the extra \$10-15 bucks to get firewire (assuming you have firewire >> ports, of course).

>>

>> Jim

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>>>Thanks

>>>Lazy Senior

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> Jim

> Thank you for some excellent information, I have been searching for > exactly what you told me.

>

> I have a firewire port on both computers, but thought USB would be

> faster for a harddrive? Using a internal harddrive is not possible as I

> already have 2 harddrives in my desktop.

>

Your typical HD is FASTER than the USB interface, at least for these purposes. Whereas an internal HD on your PC might deliver 30-35MB/sec (IDE/PATA), that same HD when placed inside a USB external HD enclosure might drop back to roughly 23-25MB/sec. The bottleneck is the USB interface, not the HD. And some USB chipsets used by the enclosure are better than others (i.e., slightly more efficient). That's why I recommend strongly AT LEAST getting the combo USB+Firewire interface. When used at

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home, you can use the firewire ports on the PC. When on the road, you use the USB interface (assuming your laptop doesn't have firewire). Having BOTH interfaces gives you more flexibility and performance, and usually only for a few bucks more.

As far as already having 2 HDs on your desktop, I'm not sure whether you're saying you don't have any more IDE ports, OR, just don't have any place to mount one. The reason I bring it up is, if it's a matter of not having any more IDE ports, it's a trivial exercise to ADD a Promise Ultra100 (or Ultra66) PCI Controller Card to your PC, which can add more IDE ports, and permit the addition of FOUR (4) more IDE HDs. This card can be had on eBay for as little as \$20–30, and there's usually TONS of them for sale at any given time. If it's a matter of not having the space to mount additional HDs, well..., nothing I can do about that.

Of course, if you need it @ home and on the road, then external storage does seem more appropriate.

> I travel sometimes with the laptop, will I be able to disconnect an
> external USB or Firewire drive from the desktop computer and attach it
> to the laptop when I travel and expect it to work ok?
>

Yes, as long as your laptop has the appropriate USB and/or Firewire port, you just plug it in and XP will detect it, install drivers, and you're in business. Nothing all that complicated.

> This is the main reason I havent looked into the ethernet attached HD's.
>

Hmm..., well as long as you have an ethernet port, a network storage device would still work, even w/ the laptop. Doesn't *have* to be a switch. It's just like hooking up two laptops together, you simply attach a crossover cable between the network storage device and your laptop's ethernet port. In theory, if it was gigabit ethernet (i.e., 1000mbps) for the storage's network adapter and your laptop ethernet adapter, you'd have the best performance link possible (out-performing both USB (480mbps) and Firewire (400mbps))! Btw, some of these network storage devices support ethernet AND USB/Firewire, so you can use ethernet at home, for example, and USB on the road. Here's a couple of Ximeta units, just to illustrate:

This one comes w/ a HD (comes in several sizes, your choice)
http://www.ximeta.com/products/network_drives/netdisk/index.php

This one is just the enclosure, you supply your own HD
http://www.ximeta.com/products/network_drives/netdisk_enclosure/index.php

Notice that if you choose the first one, you get only a 1 yr warranty. If you choose the second one (enclosure only), you provide any HD you want, so then you can perhaps get a nice Seagate model w/ 5 yr warranty :)
Outpost.com has had the Seagate 300GB for <\$100 (after rebate) on and off

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for the past few weeks. Plenty of other HD deals to be had as well.

- > I have seen the USB HD enclosures (without the HD – you supply your
- > own). Would this be a better way to go vs a USB External HD ready to
- > use? Cost wise it seems even.
- >

When the USB external HD enclosures first hit the market, they were outrageously priced, just ridiculous. Since then, they have come down a lot, but perhaps not as much as I would like to convince me NOT to roll my own. But they are convenient, just unpack the unit, plug in the power supply, connect the interface cable, and you're ready to go. But frankly, building your own is ridiculously simple, these enclosures are little more than a container with a IDE controller (or SATA if that's your preference), You simply connect the enclosure's IDE cable to the IDE port of the HD, attached the molex power plug, connect the pin for the LED/Power light, and close the enclosure w/ some screws. It's about as easy an install as you'll ever see for a PC component. But again, for some ppl, they just don't want to be bothered, they'd rather buy a prebuilt unit and be done with it. It's up to you.

The *****BIG***** advantage of rolling your own is that warranty! I've never seen a prebuilt unit w/ more than 1 yr. But you can get Seagate HDs w/ 5 yr warranties. For my money, and given the simplicity of building your own, it's a no brainer, I'll roll my own every time if only to get that HD warranty protection. The only other option might be to buy a buyer protection plan from the retailer, if offered (not something I usually recommend, but it is an option).

Jim

- > Again thanks for you very usefull reply, I appreciate it.
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- > Lazy Senior
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• *Follow-Ups:*

Re: Networking and External USB HardDrives?

◆ **Re: Networking and External USB HardDrives?**

◇ From: Lazy Senior

• **References:**

◆ **Networking and External USB HardDrives?**

◇ From: Lazy Senior

◆ **Re: Networking and External USB HardDrives?**

◇ From: Jim

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• Prev by Date: **Re: 1394 on SP2 stopped working on two computers after October 12**

• Next by Date: **Re: port forwarding in xp**

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