

Forum:[Hack Forums](#)

Thread: [My System No Longer Sees My External Drive After Format](#)

Effexion - January 13, 2017, 7:47 am

I am trying to reinstall windows on my old laptops HDD and have it plugged in to the USB. I formatted it to NTFS and now I can't see it in explorer.

It is visible in disk manager but no where else and I need to install on to it. I have found I can install on to a pen drive and just move the files over to make it bootable but I need to see it first.

Can anyone help?

Cammy - January 13, 2017, 7:55 am

Format it again in the disk manager and assign a letter/name to it

Malicious Intent - January 13, 2017, 7:59 am

You need to format it correctly and create partition first. Pay attention to flags and make sure you set it as boot. I recommend gparted for the job.

Effexion - January 13, 2017, 8:01 am

Worked a treat, thanks once again. Will it work if I just move the files over from pen drive?

Malicious Intent - January 13, 2017, 8:03 am

(Jan 13, 2017 09:01 AM)Effexion Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Worked a treat, thanks once again. Will it work if I just move the files over from pen drive?

I doubt it. Boot might fail as you won't be able to move the boot partition.

Cammy - January 13, 2017, 8:04 am

(Jan 13, 2017 09:01 AM)Effexion Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Worked a treat, thanks once again. Will it work if I just move the files over from pen drive?

If you mean the the whole windows installation then my guess would be no.

Better off just doing a clean install to avoid any potential issues anyway, that's what I would do

Effexion - January 13, 2017, 8:05 am

(Jan 13, 2017 08:55 AM)Cammy Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Format it again in the disk manager and assign a letter/name to it

(Jan 13, 2017 09:03 AM)Malicious Intent Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I doubt it. Boot might fail as you won't be able to move the boot partition.

How else could I do it as Windows Multimedia Tool doesn't see my drive. Just my flash drive.

(Jan 13, 2017 09:04 AM)Cammy Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) If you mean the the whole windows installation then my guess would be no.

Better off just doing a clean install to avoid any potential issues anyway, that's what I would do
Screen broken on old laptop and the HDD is slim as opposed to the one I am using which is fat. So relying on using it through the USB. However, WMCT won't see it nor will Rufus. I can see it in explorer now though, thanks to you :).

Malicious Intent - January 13, 2017, 8:09 am

(Jan 13, 2017 09:05 AM)Effexion Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) How else could I do it as Windows Multimedia Tool doesn't see my drive. Just my flash drive.

Try to play around with bios settings. You should be able to see this drive as a usb device. Then just install it to it. Honestly i don't know if its a good idea tho if you are planning on using it as an external drive. Windows installer will install drivers for the device you are currently using so if you try to use this drive with different pc/laptop you might get BSOD (blue screen of death) as drivers won't match the hardware. Not sure what your goal is tho.

Edit: Format it to fat32 and then you should be able to see it. Format it to ntfs during windows setup.

Effexion - January 13, 2017, 8:35 am

(Jan 13, 2017 09:09 AM)Malicious Intent Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Try to play around with bios settings. You should be able to see this drive as a usb device. Then just install it to it. Honestly i don't know if its a good idea tho if you are planning on using it as an external drive. Windows installer will install drivers for the device you are currently using so if you try to use this drive with different pc/laptop you might get BSOD (blue screen of death) as drivers won't match the hardware. Not sure what your goal is tho.

Edit: Format it to fat32 and then you should be able to see it. Format it to ntfs during windows setup.

I can't access the BIOS on my old system for some reason. The system I am using is connected by a VGA cable and I can see the BIOS on this.

Malicious Intent - January 13, 2017, 8:37 am

You mean external screen? That makes no diff bro. Bios will be the same no matter what screen you use. if you can use external screen with old laptop simply put the hdd back into it and fire it up along with windows install cd/usb.