

Re: PCMCIA cards in laptops: do they need to be mounted/unmounted when installed/removed?

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- *From:* Ken Heard <ken@xxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Mon, 19 Feb 2007 14:46:52 -0500
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Thanks everyone for the replies. If I understand them correctly, the situation is as follows:

PCMCIA cards can be hot plugged and hot unplugged just like for instance USB devices.

However, also like USB devices, if the PCMCIA card is or contains a mobile storage device, to gain access to the storage on the device it has to be mounted. Likewise, before such a PCMCIA card, like USB storage devices, is removed, it should be unmounted in the same manner.

As it happens, I still have a PCMCIA adapter for CF cards, which is what was used to connect CF cards to laptops before the days of USB ports on laptops. So I put a CF card in it and inserted it into a PCMCIA slot. "pccardctl ident" returned:

```
product info: "HITACHI", "FLASH", "5.0", ""
manfid: 0x0007, 0x0000
function: 4 (fixed disk)
```

Dmesg however told me much more. It produced the following:

```
Probing IDE interface ide2...
hde: Hitachi XX.V.3.4.0.0, CFA DISK drive
ide2 at 0x100-0x107,0x10e on irq 10
hde: max request size: 128KiB
hde: 2002896 sectors (1025 MB) w/1KiB Cache, CHS=1987/16/63
hde: hde1
ide-cs: hde: Vpp = 0.0
```

Sure enough, I found a directory called /dev/hde1. By creating directory /media/pccfcard and running "mount -t vfat /dev/hde1 /media/pccfcard" I had complete access to the cf card. I then added an appropriate line to /etc/fstab, which I will test after the next time I boot my laptop.

It is interesting that the adapter manufacturer is identified as Hitachi; whereas the adapter is labelled Sandisk.

I also noticed that pccardctl includes the commands insert and eject. Since the cards can be hot inserted and removed, I wonder why have these two commands.

Re: PCMCIA cards in laptops: do they need to be mounted/unmounted when installed/removed?

Regards,

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