

Re: HELP: External 250G USB screwed with GParted

Source: <http://linux.derkeiler.com/Mailing-Lists/Fedora/2008-01/msg03007.html>

- *From:* "André Costa" <blueser@xxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Sun, 20 Jan 2008 13:11:52 -0200
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Hi Mikkel,

2008/1/20 Mikkel L. Ellertson <mikkel@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>:

André Costa wrote:

I've read some reports about the same error messages suggesting they could be caused by insufficient power on the USB ports (looks like it really fluctuates, and that external drives demand more power than usual USB devices). Initially I wouldn't consider this an option on my case, since the drive already worked on this same port I am trying now before the failed GParted session. However, I don't know if the drive is now in a weird state in which more power is needed...

WD sells a "power booster cable" for USD 9.99, but they only sell it on the US =/ I'll try to buy a AC powered USB hub, this should ensure all the power needed and get one variable out of the equation.

I have 2 2-1/2" USB drives that get their power from the USB bus. They both draw more power then one USB connection will easily supply. The computer end of the cable has 2 USB plugs, one that is only a power connection. To make the drives work right, you have to plug in the power-only plug first, wait 10 seconds for the drive to spin up, and then plug in the data connection. If you plug them in at the same time, or only use one plug, it will sometimes work, but it will usually have problems.

Thks for the tip. USB is trickier than I thought... all these requirements takes all the fun out of it =/

One other thing to keep in mind – if the drive drew too much power, the USB port may have shut down. I know some kernels enforce the power limits, but I don't remember if the current kernels do. There was debate about this, but I don't remember reading about the final

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decision. Moving to another USB port may fix the problem. (I don't remember how to reset the port.) This shutdown may also be BIOS dependent. On my laptop, I g