

RE: [opensuse] USB 2.0 external hard drives

Source: <http://linux.derkeiler.com/Mailing-Lists/SuSE/2007-05/msg00162.html>

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 - *Date:* Wed, 2 May 2007 10:01:04 +0200
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I had someone fairly knowledgeable tell me that in the real world they are seeing problems when using FAT32 on 500GB and above drives. We've been using FAT32 for all our external drives too, but we are initiating the process of deciding if we want to go to EXT2 or NTFS for the future.

I looked into this 2 or 3 years ago and did not feel comfortable going either way at that time so we stayed with FAT. But compatible drivers seem to have improved in both directions since then.

AFAIK FAT32 has an upper limit of 127GB. which means you need lots of partitions. Fat is the worst filesystem out there. Anything else is better.

If you need windows portability, sharing it via samba from a server is a reliable option. Samba also supports windows acl well, if you want more than default windows filesystem security (everybody can read everything). Maybe the write-ntfs patch will fix this?

When it comes to hard-disk of Choice the Samsung Spinpoint 500GB is great. It has the lowest surface temperature of all the 500GB disks, which means you can put it in an external non-fan box. The more platters and rpms the higher the temperature.

Most newer disks of today can transfer more than 60MB/s which is the upper theoretical bandwidth limit of usb2.

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