

Hi-Val external USB 2.0 CD Rewritable drive

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From: Allan Adler (ara_at_nestle.csail.mit.edu)

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I am running RH 7 Linux on a Dell Latitude CsX laptop. I do intend to upgrade. It has a CD Rom drive, but it isn't writable. It has a USB port and I have used it to mount a 250 MB flash drive. This solved a problem that has stymied me for years, namely a good way to back up my files, since I could move my files, 250 MB at a time, to another machine that has a CD RW drive and then back up the files to CD's. The device is /dev/sda1. That eliminates the main obstacle to upgrading RH on this laptop (there are still a few minor issues).

I'm happy with the flash drive solution, but this was also the first time that I had ever connected a USB device to this or any PC. Now that I know that RH 7 Linux will talk to this USB device, I'm interested in knowing what other USB devices it will talk to. In particular, today I saw an external USB 2.0 CD rewritable drive (I think it also is backward compatible to USB 1.1) made by Hi-Val (www.hival.com) at Comp USA. Unfortunately, no one at Comp USA knows anything about Linux so I thought I'd ask about it here.

Suppose I just plug this external drive into the USB port on the laptop. Can I expect the laptop to be able to talk to it? If RH 7 is too old, can I expect a more recent version of RH to talk to it? Has anyone else here used this device?

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Ignorantly,

Allan Adler <ara@zurich.csail.mit.edu>

* Disclaimer: I am a guest and *not* a member of the MIT CSAIL. My actions and * comments do not reflect in any way on MIT. Also, I am nowhere near Boston.