

# Re: usb disk insists on being readonly

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*Source:* <http://linux.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/comp.os.linux.setup/2007-07/msg00032.html>

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- *From:* Matt Giwer <jull43@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
  - *Date:* Wed, 04 Jul 2007 23:14:37 -0400
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lalawawa wrote:

On Jul 4, 5:53 pm, Matt Giwer <jul...@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

lalawawa wrote:

Hi, I just bought a 400Mbyte usb disk.  
My OS is Ubuntu version 5, I've recently done the updates to it.  
My computer is a Sony VAIO PCV-RX270DS that I bought in 2001, with about 400Mbytes of disk and the usb port is USB 1 (that manual doesn't say which USB version because I think USB 2.0 wasn't out yet). The disk is connected through a hub.  
The drive is a 400GB Simpletech drive. The specifications make it clear it's USB 1.1 compatible. All the online technical support assumes you're on Windows.  
When I turn on the disk, it appears in the /media directory by the filename 'simpletech' (not spaces before and after the name). The fstab entry that appears is  
/dev/sda /media/usb0 auto rw,user,noauto 0 0  
If I cd to /media and do 'ls -ld \ simpletech\ ', I get  
dr-x----- 1 wulluw wulluw 4096 2007-02-20 10:25 simpletech  
if I go into that directory and do 'ls -la' I get  
total 8  
dr-x----- 1 wulluw wulluw 4096 2007-02-20 10:25 .  
drwxr-xr-x 7 root root 4096 2007-07-04 14:20 ..  
dr-x----- 1 wulluw wulluw 0 2007-02-20 10:25 System Volume Information  
if I try 'touch a' it says  
touch: cannot touch `a': Read-only file system

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if I try 'sudo touch a' it still says
touch: cannot touch `a': Read-only file system
I cd back to /media
$ chmod +w \ simpletech\ /
chmod: changing permissions of ` simpletech /': Read-only
file system
$ sudo chmod +w \ simpletech\ /
chmod: changing permissions of ` simpletech /': Read-only
file system
Why is it saying the filesystem is readonly when /etc/fstab
clearly
says it's rw? What do I have to do to get the disk mounted
rw? A
400GB readonly disk with nothing on it isn't very useful.
Any help would be appreciated.
```

What kind of filesystem did you put on it when you formatted it?

I did not format the drive. I just bought it, brought it home, plugged it into the USB hub and turned it on. How would I go about formatting the drive? I would want the drive to be also readable if I hook it up to a windows machine.

If you did not format it the best you might have is a Windows file system so it can advertise plug-n-play. If it has no filesystem then you obviously cannot write to it.

What I believe to be a complete description is here.  
<http://www.giwersworld.org/computers/linux/usb-drives.phtml>

The general format command is this. It may be a place other than sbin on Ubuntu.

```
/sbin/mke2fs -c -j -L 320 /dev/sdX1
```

Read the article to figure out what X should be. It's easy.

I want to make the article complete so let me know how it goes.

If you want it readable by Windows you will have to create a windows file system on it with windows and set your fstab entry to mount it as vfat or whatever. I have not done that in so long I do not remember how to do it. If you just want primitive access google for a program something like lnxread.exe or lxread.exe which will copy a file from an ext2 or 3 partition to vfat.

If it was advertised as plug-n-play it should have come with a Windows file system.

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The only way to get to the bottom of the Valerie Plame outing is to torture Libby until he tells all. The identity of our spies is a matter of national security.

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— The Iron Webmaster, 3813

nizkor <http://www.giwersworld.org/nizkook/nizkook.phtml>

Blame Israel <http://www.usliberty.org> a10

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