

How to Format a Hard Drive



Formatting Extended or non-bootable partitions

To format other partitions you simply type the FORMAT command followed by the drive letter you want to format as follows....

FORMAT C:

When you issue the FORMAT command you will be asked to confirm if you want to proceed with the message.....

'WARNING, ALL DATA ON NON-REMOVABLE DISK DRIVE WILL BE LOST! Proceed with Format? (Y/N)?'

Since formatting a drive destroys the data it contains this is a precaution to make sure you want to go ahead and format the drive.

When the format operation completes a report is displayed which shows...

Total disk space
Corrupted disk space marked as defective
Total disk space used by the operating system
Total disk space available for use by files

When formatting a drive the FORMAT program marks any bad sectors it finds as defective. This will force the operating system to ignore them rather than risk corrupting data by continuing to use them.

Once you have formatted all your drives using the FORMAT command you can proceed to the installation of your operating system or start to use the new drive(s) to store data.