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FCR Tech Tips

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USB 3.0 Has Been Unveiled

Two weeks ago Freecom introduced the first long awaited USB 3.0 device according to Computerworld.com. It is a portable hard drive with data transfer speeds of up to 10 times faster than its predecessor (USB 2.0).



Freecom's new hard drive can transfer data at an incredible 130MB/sec. They also claim that it can move 5 Gigabytes of data in a mere 38 seconds! Although 130MB/sec is fast, it falls short of the projected 500MB/sec speed that was promised by the USB Implementers Forum (USB-IF), the developer of the standard. The speeds could increase as the standard is developed and further tested.

As people start transferring high-definition content, USB 3.0 will be much more useful as a result of the speed increase. USB is being used more often for charging devices such as cell phones, cameras etc. Other than faster speeds, USB 3.0 will include better power-management for devices that are plugged into it by putting them into a virtual sleep-mode if not being used.

The new USB 3.0 standard is also backwards compatible with USB 2.0. To take full advantage of the speed you must also have a USB 3.0 controller on your computer which is fairly inexpensive and easy to install.

Preparing For Windows 7

The official release date October 22nd of Windows 7 is just around the corner. Now is the time to prepare your computer for the new operating system. Windows 7 requires a substantial amount of computer "muscle" and available hard drive space.



Many people will simply have to purchase a new computer while others may only have to install more RAM and a larger capacity hard drive to handle the requirements of Windows 7. For example, depending on which version of Windows 7 you choose, your computer must have a minimum of 16-20GB available hard drive space and 1-2GB of RAM.

Windowsteamblog.com is a useful website that can help answer many of the questions you may have regarding the move to Windows 7. For those that are more computer savvy and understand technical terminology, Microsoft.com has posted all of the system requirements for Windows 7.

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