

Q: What is a Disk Management Utility?

A: The Key to the Storage Vault!

What is a Disk Management Utility?

In Windows, they call it "Disk Management". In Mac, they call it "Disk Utility". Despite having different names and appearances, both Windows Disk Management and Mac Disk Utility do basically the same thing: they allow you to create, modify and delete any storage volume connected to your computer. Your disk management utility is by far the most powerful application on your computer. It is also the first place to look when you are having trouble using any storage device!

In order to get the most out of your Cavalry drive, you will need to become intimately familiar with your disk management utility. Please refer to the detailed glossary on our website of the terms you will need to understand:

<http://www.cavalrystorage.com/manuals.aspx>

It's generally a good idea to keep your disk management utility continuously open while you are setting up your disks within it.

How to Find Your Disk Management Utility

Windows: Navigate to Disk Management: Start Menu>right-click (My) Computer>select "Manage">select Disk Management.

Mac: Click an empty space on your Desktop. Then select (from the top of the screen) Go>Utilities>Disk Utility.

"Seeing" Your New Disk in the Disk Management Utility

Windows arbitrarily assigns a "Disk Number" to every new disk that is connected; even if the disk does NOT show up in (My) Computer. "Disk 0" is always your system or C: drive. Your Cavalry drive will appear somewhere beneath Disk 0. It will be given a number, like Disk 1 etc. You will probably only be able to recognize it by its size, which will be a little bit less than the quoted drive size. If a connected disk does not appear here, the disk is probably defective. See the troubleshooting FAQ for details. You can also check the file system here. "NTFS" is the Windows default. "Unallocated" is a blank drive with no file-system.

In Mac, this is a pretty straight-forward affair. Just look at the left-hand column, and search for a newly added disk with the term "DMI" or "USB" in its title. Click on it once and use the tabs to the right to perform the necessary operations. You can also check the file system here. "Mac OS Extended (Journaled)" is the Mac default File System. "NTFS" is a Windows file system which may require you to reformat the disk before usage with a Mac.

Important Functions You Will Use Your Disk Management Utility for

The essential functions of your disk management utility fall into three categories: Finding an attached disk and checking what OS it requires. Formatting, partitioning, re-purposing and setting-up new drives. Checking the health of an attached disk and the file-system on it.

- 1) **Finding an attached disk and checking what OS it requires:** *This process is described above.*
- 2) **Initializing, Formatting, re-purposing and setting-up new disks:** *See the Initializing and Formatting guide online.*
- 3) **Checking the health of an attached disk and the file system on it:**
In Windows, right-click on the long horizontal box to the right of the correct disk number. Select Properties>Tools>Error-Check Now. This will scan the disk for file-system errors or physical defects like a "Bad Sector". If you read the pop-up windows that ensue, you will also be given the option to repair certain types of errors. Or, if the drive is unrecoverable, you may be given an error indicating that the error-checking application failed. Disk Defragmenter is also available under this tab and is very effective at repairing a slow or unresponsive drive.
In Mac, select the top-most entry for your drive on the left-hand column of Disk Utility. Open the "First Aid" tab in the center row of Disk Utility. Choose "Verify Disk" in order to scan the disk for errors. Choose "Repair Permissions" in order fix any found errors or in order to repair a slow or unresponsive drive.

For a complete detailed explanation of all the functions and procedures needed use your Cavalry drive, go online to:
<http://www.cavalrystorage.com/manuals.aspx>