

# Re: USB drive problem

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- *From:* Joerg <[notthisjoergsch@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:notthisjoergsch@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Tue, 04 Sep 2007 14:10:18 -0700
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mrdarrett@xxxxxxxx wrote:

On Sep 4, 1:14 pm, Spehro Pefhany <[speffS...@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:speffS...@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)> wrote:

On Tue, 04 Sep 2007 14:53:34 -0500, Tim Wescott  
<[t...@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:t...@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)>  
wrote:

OK, this is totally off-topic, but y'all are smart:

I have a Dell Dimension 8300, with XP-Pro installed. I've had it for four years, and since day 1 it's not been able to read USB drives. Not thumb drives, not digital cameras that are mapped as USB drives, nothing. These are all devices that work fine on various other Windows and Linux boxes in my house.

When I plug a thumb drive into the thing, the only indication that it's there is that waaaay down in device manager, an "Unknown Device" shows up in the USB tree.

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Every other USB thing I've tried in the box has worked perfectly.

Anybody got any clues for me?

Thanks.

Obvious question: Have you updated all the drivers and BIOS? It sounds like all "mass storage" devices are not working.

Best regards,  
Spehro Pefhany

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"it's the network..." "The Journey is the reward"  
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Either that, or a bad mainboard.

(Let's hope it's a driver issue!)

If it's a bad mainboard, quick and (relatively) cheap solution is to use a PCI USB card. Remember: swapping out the mainboard will void your XP license.

With the obvious question whether such voiding would hold any water in a court of law. Swapping a mainboard could be construed as repair and voiding a usage right because of a repair, well, I wouldn't know a judge that would let that fly.

Tim: If you go to Device Manager, click on that unknown device and then on the driver tab, does anything come up? If not then your PC might be missing that Microsoft driver.

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Regards, Joerg

<http://www.analogconsultants.com>

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