

Pen Thumb Drives

Definition: A flash drive is a small, ultra-portable storage device which, unlike an optical drive or a traditional hard drive, has no moving parts. Flash drives connect to computers and other devices via a built-in USB Type-A plug, making a flash drive a kind of combination USB device and cable. Most flash drives have a storage capacity from 8 GB to 64 GB. Smaller and larger flash drives are also available but they're harder to find.

One of the first flash drives was just 8 MB in size. The largest one I've seen is a USB 3.0 flash drive with a 1 TB (1024 GB) capacity. Flash drives can be written and rewritten to an almost unlimited number of times, similar to hard drives. Flash drives have completely replaced floppy drives for portable storage and, considering how large and inexpensive flash drives have become, they've even nearly replaced CD, DVD, and BD disc for data storage purposes.

Also known as: USB drive, pen drive, jump drive, solid state drive and thumb drive

