

DISK MANAGEMENT IN WINDOWS 11

Windows 11 still includes a legacy storage management utility called Disk Management that can come in handy from time to time. It is one of several tools that is made available from the Windows 11 Quick access menu, which you can display by right-clicking the Start button or pressing WINKEY + X. But you can also find Disk Management with Search: begin typing its name (like disk m) and then select “Create and format hard disk partitions” in the search results.

Most of the functionality provided by Disk Management is available in Storage settings, making this tool somewhat redundant. But we still find it easier and quicker to accomplish certain disk-related tasks with Disk Management:

Change a drive letter. Windows 11 automatically assigns drive letters (like C: and D:) to every compatible volume found on any fixed and removable storage devices attached to the PC. But you may sometimes want to assign a specific drive letter to a (non-system) disk.

To do so, right-click it, choose “Change Drive Letter and Paths...”, and then use the window that appears to change the drive letter.

Format a removable disk that uses a file system Windows 11 doesn’t understand. If you insert a removable disk that is formatted using a file system that Windows doesn’t understand, it will not appear in File Explorer or be otherwise accessible. But you can often access these disks with Disk Management and, if desired, format them so that they will work normally with Windows. To do so, delete all of the volumes on the relevant disk, create a new simple volume, and then format it using the NTFS file system. (The default choice is FAT32 for some reason.)