

Have data, will travel

By: ALAN WILLIAMS, POD LEADER, NERDS ON SITE

The floppy disk has reached the end of its meaningful lifespan; in fact, most new computers are not shipped with a floppy disk drive. In its time the floppy disk has grown from 180kb to 360kb to 1.2Mb and finally to 1.44Mb. Unfortunately, the size of typical files has grown considerably larger than this. For example, it is not unusual to see a single MP3 song be 3-5 times the size of the biggest diskette. This leaves us with a dilemma as what to do to transport our data from machine to machine.

There have been many attempts at technologies to replace the floppy disk drive. All have limits in one form or another. There have been removable Hard Disk Drives, extremely high capacity floppy disks (100Mb/250Mb), Rewriteable CD-Rom drives and many others. The problems with all of these technologies have been, and continue to be,

acceptance and compatibility. Not all computers can use these devices (compatibility) and most have somewhat costly consumable media (acceptance).

Then along came the USB data key. The USB data key is a key-chain sized device that plugs into ANY USB

port on almost ANY computer and appears as just another disk drive. You can use the USB key to store anything that has been saved on your computer. Then use it on almost any other computer.

USB data keys can be found in many sizes from 32Mb to 64Mb, 128Mb, 256Mb, 512Mb and even 1Gb. Due to recent price reductions even the largest of USB keys can be had for about the price of a nice dinner for two.

In the end the USB Data Key is the heir apparent to the Floppy Disk Drive. Like the floppy disk; you can use it store files from almost any computer and then use the files on almost other computer. The USB data key is rapidly becoming the most widely distributed and accepted device for the storage and transport of computer data. For example, if you want to be able to work on your latest budget (and all its supporting documentation, memos spreadsheets, photos, charts etc.) at home and at work: The USB data key is probably right for you!



Three coloured USB keys



PHOTO BY DONNA DANIELLI
The Milton Sports Centre came alive with Christmas glee as the Milton Skating Club entertained with their "Christmas Gala and Skate With Santa." Shown here are performers, (front row, left to right): Rebecca Landau, Madelyn Dunley, Belina Delfin and Jenna Wilcox. Behind them are (left to right): Hugh Ritchie, Skyla Baker, Julia Cendese and Sarah Fodor.

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BRINGING IN THE NEW YEAR

Residents and guests are invited to join Mayor Krantz and representatives from the Milton Public Library around the historic bell in Victoria Park, Downtown Milton on December 31 at 11:45 pm to greet in 2005. Enjoy warm refreshments in Hugh Foster Hall adjacent to Town Hall.

Residents and guest are invited to join Mayor Krantz, Members of Council and the Milton Historical Society at the New Year's Day Levee on January 1, 2005 from 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. at the Town Hall, 43 Brown Street. Featuring poetry readings and winter in Milton by the Fine Arts Society of Milton. Enjoy light refreshments courtesy of the Milton Historical Society.

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