

USB 3.0 Frequently Asked Questions

Q. How much faster is SuperSpeed USB 3.0 over USB 2.0?

- A. The theoretical transfer speed of USB 3.0 is 4.8 Gbit/s (600MBps) vs. 480 Mbit/s (60MBps) which is a 10X improvement. Sustained transfer speeds (real life) for external hard drives are about 85MBps for USB 3.0 and about 22MBps for USB 2.0, so about a 5X improvement but still a significant advancement in transfer speed.

Q. Is USB 3.0 backward compatible with USB 2.0?

- A. Yes. The USB 3.0 port on external and portable desktop drives will look different but the end of the cable that plugs into the computer will look exactly like today's USB 2.0 ports. However, USB 3.0 ports will have extra contact pins that take advantage of faster transfer rates as well as better power management. If you plug a USB 3.0 cable into a USB 2.0 port, the external drive will operate at USB 2.0 speeds.

Q. I don't have a USB 3.0 port on my desktop PC. How can I take advantage of the faster USB 3.0 speeds with your new USB 3.0 external desktop hard drive?

- A. We will bundle a USB 3.0 PCI Host Card that will easily install on your desktop PC's motherboard. Simply remove the cover on your desktop PC and insert the PCI Host Card into an available slot on your motherboard.

Q. Will my laptop be able to take advantage of the faster USB 3.0 transfer speeds?

- A. Today's laptops do not have a USB 3.0 connector although manufacturers will begin offering models with USB 3.0 during 2010. To take advantage of the faster speeds, you will need to install a USB 3.0 Express Card into one of the slots on the side of your laptop. However, this express card will likely need supplemental power so an additional power cord would need to be plugged into a wall outlet or another USB port perhaps to draw additional power. This may be viewed as cumbersome to some users but this is the solution until laptop manufacturers include USB 3.0 ports as standard equipment which will begin seeing in 1H 2010. Verbatim will also be offering a USB 3.0 Express Card, which is compatible with our USB 3.0 portable HDD.