

Explore Pages – External Storage

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The Power of External Storage

These days we are busier than ever, and the amount of data we collect is growing. A typical laptop can fill up with HD photos, videos, music and documents pretty quickly. The challenge is to effectively manage all that data, while keeping your laptop or PC running smoothly.

External storage is the solution, and it exists in a variety of form factor and capacities to help you store, backup, and access your important files.

Here are six common types of external storage, and their uses:

Type of Storage	Typical uses
CDs/DVDs	For burning small amounts of files for permanent archival; usually not rewritable. Very limited capacity.
Memory Cards	For use in cameras, tablets, and phones. Removeable, cross-compatible, and rewritable. Limited capacity.
USB Flash Drives	Removable, cross-compatible, and rewritable. Limited capacity.
Portable Drives	Removable, cross-compatible, and rewritable. Extended capacity.
NAS	Internet-based, Extended Capacity, accessible from anywhere internet is available
Cloud	Internet-based, accessible from anywhere internet is available
External Desktop Drives	Direct-attached, Removable, portable, cross-compatible, and rewritable. Extended capacity.

Why do I need external storage?

External drives are versatile; they can stay at home, attached to your computer providing instant extended storage. Or they can be portable, giving you the option of taking your data with you wherever you go.

Another advantage is that you can move them from computer to computer, making them great for sharing or transferring files, without an internet connection.

Because of their extended storage capacities (in some cases up to 20TB or more), external hard drives, (or external SSDs) are often used to store backed up files like a music, video, or photos to an external drive for safe keeping, separate from the originals in case they're accidentally changed or deleted.

Who uses external storage?

Gamers – With the size of modern games reaching 40GB or more, gamers may find the onboard storage of their gaming console can quickly filling up. WD offers a [lineup of gaming drives](#) designed to extend capacity and provide portability of games and saved gaming data.

Archivists – Do you own a large music collection, photo archive or home videos? External storage like [USB Flash drives](#) or a [WD My Passport](#) is great way to back them up, offload them from your phone or tablet, and transfer them to your laptop or PC. Use a portable drive to transport your data anywhere.

Students – Portable storage can easily fit in your backpack and is especially useful for sharing files with your fellow students – even without an internet connection.

NAS Users - Network-Attached Storage (NAS) utilizes a single or multiple drive device (like the 2-bay PR2100 and 4-bay PR4100) that is connected to the internet via an ethernet cable at home or office. Secure access can be limited to the local network and can be configured for internet access from anywhere.

Cloud Users – Services like Dropbox and Box can cost money. End the fees with a cloud of your own – all your files, wherever you go, even on your smartphone – just like those cloud services. Difference is, your device (like a [WD My Cloud](#)) stays safe in your home or office connected to your internet to provide file access from anywhere.

Anyone – who is experiencing a sluggish laptop or PC, because too many files stored on the internal drive are slowing down other processes. Almost any external storage will do, such as a [My Book desktop drive](#), that keeps your files safe at home with extended capacities up to 20TB or more.