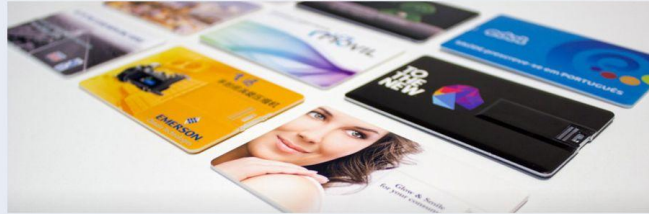


TOP 5 Reasons To Use Domestic USB Production



- 1. Turn Around Times are Unbeatable**
- 2. Save on Shipping & Customs**
- 3. Data Security - Keep it inhouse, Offline**
- 4. Quality Control - Minimize Shrinkage**
- 5. Convenience - Call Us Anytime**



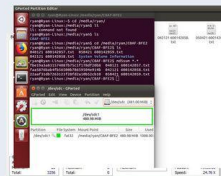
Quality Is Job 1

*By printing and data loading your

USB project in-house we ensure high quality data loads and implement post production quality control checks via MD5 Testing.

Plan Execution

- *Utilize highly trained staff
- *Utilize Copy Compare functionality for data integrity
- *Utilize MD5 hashing for digital upload verification
- * Set clear expectations and communicate Deadlines



Take the stress out of USB Flash Drive Projects!



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Common Problems Related to USB Flash Drives & How to Fix

File System Incompatibility Issues

Problem: Cross-Platform Usage

Different OS (Windows, macOS, Linux) Support different file systems by default
Windows commonly supports NTFS or exFAT
macOS supports APFS or HFS+ by default
Some devices (car stereo, camera) Support Fat32 only

Solution: Universal File Formats

Selecting Universal File Systems or Formats for cross-platform use. exFAT is usually recommended as it has large compatibility and supports large files.
NTFS is another good option.



Aaack My USB Drive is not working!

Often times we see these cross-platform issues after a USB device is used across multiple devices. It's best practice if possible to stick with one operating system per USB. Often times when inserting a USB from say a windows environment into a macOS environment the drive will want to re-format to the native macOS file system. This can result in data loss and should be avoided.

Simple Solution - Multiple USB Drives

If you want to share your files across multiple OS devices one solution could be to make duplicates - give one drive with your old x-mas videos to Aunt Edna to use with her Macbook and another USB drive to Nanny Sue to use with her DVD player.

Solving USB Flash Drive related problems for Decades!



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WHO IS CREATING & DISTRIBUTING ON PHYSICAL MEDIA IN 2025?

- Musicians & Filmmakers – Concert & Film Festival Sales
- Archivists – Librarians and Patrons of the Arts
- Artists – Digital Print Collections
- MedTech Companies – Field Service Tech Digital Tools
- Financial Institutions - Fiscal Reporting/Compliance
- Promotional – Sales Brochures

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS



Custom Retail DVD Set & Custom Retail USB

- + 2 Disc Set w/ Dual Layer DVD
(necessary for over 90 minute runtime)
- + Full Color Custom Printed DVD Set
- + Full Color Custom Printed USB
- + Data Load
- + Printed Exterior Wraps
- + Amaray Style Case for DVD & USB
- + Subtitled for ADA Compliance



Which USB Drive Type Should I Use?

USB 2.0

- * Product Brochures
- * Sales Collateral
- * Training Manuals
- * Instructions for Use
- * Art Delivery
- * Data Storage
- * Promotional Use

USB 3.0

- * Bootable Software
- * Recovery Disks
- * Embedded Software
- * High Definition Video
- * Playback from Drive
- * Live Linux Distros
- * Tesla Sentry Cam

Tips for a Successful USB or HDD Data Load Project

Standardize Media

- *Make sure all certifications are current (REACH, RoHS, Conflict Minerals, etc)
- *Determine whether a locked BOM (bill of materials) is required
- *Determine required Read/Write Speeds
- *Determine Media Required (HDD, SD, USB, etc)
- *Make sure P/N is not EOL (end of life) to ensure life cycle viability
- *Develop Demand Schedule so all media can be purchased at once



First Articles for Custom USB Project

Do I need First Articles for my USB Project?

What are First Articles?

FAI or First Article Inspection is a validation process for verifying that product or production process will yield a product or service that will effectively and efficiently solve the issue attempting to be solved. It is the initial process for testing a product prior to sourcing and full production. First article USB drives are a great solution to make sure that your USB drives have the required documentation (RoHS, CE, REACH, etc). First Articles also can eliminate problems arising from incompatible chipsets or firmware, read/write speeds or physical size limitations.

Defining the Who, What, Why and How's of First Article Testing

Who Benefits from FAIs?

First articles on USB Drives are a tremendous benefit to the purchaser and the producer. They help eliminate unforeseen costs due to sourcing of non-conforming product. For successful FAI testing it is essential that all variables are removed to increase the chances for a successful testing.

Who should be involved in the Process?

- Software Engineers • Project Managers • Supply Chain Managers • Purchasing Managers
- Value Add Partners • OEM Manufacturers

How long does FAI testing take?

Budgeting at least 1 month should leave plenty of time for USB Drive sourcing and the testing of a few workflow and process iterations.

What do FAIs on a USB Flash Drive project look like?

- **1. Discussing project goals**
- **2. Determining the best USB Flash Drive Solution**
- **3. Sourcing USB Drives**
- **4. Sending blank drives to engineering team for master creation**
- **5. Cloning master to verify production workflow and process**
- **6. Sending Clones to Engineering for validation**
- **7. Engineering sending USB Flash Drives to End User for solution validation**
- **8. Purchasing/Project Manager Sign Off and release of Production Purchase Order.**

Why do FAI testing on a USB Drive Project?

FAI can be a vital process for especially challenging USB Flash Drive Projects.

If your project requires a locked BOM (bill of materials), specific read/write speeds or is being used for a bootable product (legacy or UEFI) it's probably a good idea to engage in FAI testing prior to placing a large order.

What types of projects are FAI tested USB Drives a good solution for?

Typically these projects involve Flash Drives that are being used either as embedded software or to update software ([Bootable USB Flash Drives](#)).

USB Drives can be a great solution for these types of projects because they are an extremely fast way to get software to field agents without introducing the risk of a supply chain attack vector consistent with cloud based solutions. The data or software can be loaded manually on computers that are air gapped from the internet and offer a clear chain of custody between the customer, the producer and the field agent.

Plan Execution

Even the best plans are nothing without a great team to execute on them.

I'm Ready to start FAI testing

We'd love to speak with you about your next complex USB Flash Drive or HDD related project and discuss how our expertise can help save you time and money. Please don't hesitate to reach out to us at 612-782-8200 and start the discussion today.

Tips for a Successful USB or HDD Data Load Project

Standardize Media

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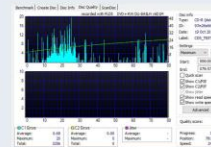
PRODUCT GRADE	INDUSTRIAL	OEM	COMMERCIAL	CONSUMER
WAND TYPES	SLC Single Level Cell	MLC Multi Level Cell	MLC Multi Level Cell	SLC Single Level Cell
BIU/Cell	1	1	2	3
Endurance Cycles	100K / 50K / 10K	20K	3K	300
Reliability	★★★★★	★★	★	★
Data Retention	★★★★★	★★	★	★
Life Cycle	★★★★★	★★	★★	
Locked-BOM	✓	✓	✓	
Cost	\$555	\$55	\$5	\$

Standardize Process

- *Standardize workflow
- *Discuss timetable viability and deadlines
- *Develop and execute 1st article testing process
- *Communicate with customer on goals and timetables
- *Determine QC standards,for testing procedures and allowable deviations

Plan Execution

- *Utilize highly trained staff
- *Utilize offline equipment for data load & testing
- *Maintain data sterility through Air Gapped Equipment
- *Fill out requisite Certificates of Conformance
- *Deliver on schedule



Take the stress out of USB & HDD Data Load Projects!

