

USB Hard Drives

USB Hard Drives are the latest innovation in removable storage devices for computers. These small portable devices are about the size of a small paperback book and are easier and faster to use than a CD-RW or a floppy drive and they are much more reliable than a floppy diskette. They are similar to a USB Flash drive in that they plug into a USB port on your computer, but they hold a lot more information. They are extremely useful for storing large amounts of data, such as backing up your entire user folder. Costco sells a 120Gb USB hard drive for about \$140.00. These drives work great with the AristoCAT File Management Program.

Essentially USB Hard Drives act as removable drives for your computer and will show up as E, F or G drives under the "My Computer" icon of your computer. For computers with Windows Me, 2000 or XP there is no need for additional software to access a USB Hard Drive. You simply plug them into a free USB port on your computer and the operating system will automatically recognize the type of device and automatically install the software drivers. The first time you plug one of these USB Hard Drives into a computer, a small balloon window will appear announcing **'NEW HARDWARE FOUND'** and then the operating system will take a couple of minutes to install the software driver. When the process is finished you will be informed the drive is ready to use. After the first installation the computer will automatically recognize and access the device almost immediately each time you plug it into your computer. If you are using a USB Hard Drive on a Windows 98 computer you will need to visit the vendor's web site and download the appropriate software driver or some USB Hard Drives come with a CD or floppy diskette with Windows 98 drivers. Please read all installation instructions. Some manufacturers of USB Hard Drives refer to their software drivers for Windows 98SE, which is the Second Edition of Windows 98. Note that Windows 95 and Windows NT do not support USB devices, so if you have a computer with Windows 95 or NT, you will not be able to use the USB Hard Drive with that computer.

Once a USB Hard Drive is plugged into the computer you will be able to access the drive using the AristoCAT File Management program. This means you can now copy files from your reporter folder to the drive by selecting the appropriate drive assignment from the drop down menu (Diskette Drive) that appears to the right of the bottom window in File Management and the drive will be named '(Removable Disk)'.