

5.5 File Systems

As you study this section, answer the following questions:

- What is the difference between a partition and a volume?
- What advantages does NTFS provide over FAT32?
- Why should you back up all data before formatting a drive?
- How can you reformat a drive from FAT to NTFS without losing all of the data?
- How would you convert a drive from NTFS to FAT32?
- Which operating systems can use NTFS?

Key terms for this section include the following:

Term	Definition
Directory	A container in a volume that holds files or other directories.
Extended File Allocation Table (ExFAT or FAT32)	A special file system designed to support large flash drives.
File	A file is a one-dimensional stream of bits treated as a logical unit. They are the most basic component that a file system uses to organize raw bits of data on the storage device itself. The filename is made up of the directory path plus the file name. An extension can also be added to the filename to identify the file type and the program used to create, view, and modify the file.
File system	A means for organizing and storing data and information on a storage device.
Formatting	The process of preparing a partition to use a specific file system.
New Technology File System (NTFS)	Microsoft's default file system.
Volume	A single accessible storage area within a file system.

This section helps you prepare for the following certification exam objectives:

Exam	Objective
TestOut PC Pro	2.2 Use operating system features and utilities 2.2.2 Use core macOS or iOS features
CompTIA 220-1002	1.3 Summarize general OS installation considerations and upgrade methods.

- File system types/formatting
 - ExFAT
 - FAT32
 - NTFS
 - CDFS
 - NFS
 - ext3, ext4
 - Quick format vs. full format
- Partitioning
 - Dynamic
 - Basic
 - Primary
 - Extended
 - Logical
 - GPT

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