

Magnetic Disk

Definition - What does *Magnetic Disk* mean?

A magnetic disk is a storage device that uses a magnetization process to write, rewrite and access data. It is covered with a magnetic coating and stores data in the form of tracks, spots and sectors. Hard disks, zip disks and floppy disks are common examples of magnetic disks.

Techopedia explains *Magnetic Disk*

A magnetic disk primarily consists of a rotating magnetic surface and a mechanical arm that moves over it. The mechanical arm is used to read from and write to the disk. The data on a magnetic disk is read and written using a magnetization process. Data is organized on the disk in the form of tracks and sectors, where tracks are the circular divisions of the disk. Tracks are further divided into sectors that contain blocks of data. All read and write operations on the magnetic disk are performed on the sectors.

Magnetic disks have traditionally been used as primary storage in computers. With the advent of solid-state drives (SSDs), magnetic disks are no longer considered the only option, but are still commonly used.

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