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RASPBERRY PI – FORMATTING AND MOUNTING USB DRIVE

BY ADMIN

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RASPBERRY PI TUTORIAL

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Lets say you bought fresh new flash disk which most likely isn't formatted. Simply plug thumb drive in to Raspberry Pi [USB port](#) and check if it has been detected by typing

```
sudo blkid
```

You should see in the list /dev/sda1 device which is our USB drive:

```
192.168.0.104 - PuTTY
pi@raspberrypi:~/usb8gb$ sudo blkid
/dev/mmcblk0p1: SEC_TYPE="msdos" LABEL="boot" UUID="5D2D-B09A" TYPE="vfat"
/dev/mmcblk0p2: UUID="41cd5baa-7a62-4706-b8e8-02c43ccee8d9" TYPE="ext4"
/dev/sda1: LABEL="8GB" UUID="5EF3-BBF0" TYPE="vfat"
pi@raspberrypi:~/usb8gb$
```

Since I want my drive to work on PC it need to be formatted with FAT32 partition. First of all you need to install Windows/DOS FAT32 support tools:

```
sudo apt-get install dosfstool
```

After it gets [installed](#), you can format the disk by entering following command in to shell:

```
sudo mkfs -t vfat -I /dev/sdb1
```

Once format is complete, you can create mounting point. You will find that normally which is standard location. But you can create your own directory pretty anywhere. S /pi/home/usb8gb. For this simply go to your home directory by typing

```
cd ~
```

then enter command:

```
sudo mkdir usb8gb
```

while in home directory you can mount your drive as follows:

```
sudo mount /dev/sda1 usb8gb
```

you will notice that folder ownership is set to root user and you will need superuser "sudo" command

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to perform any actions. To make things much easier just go to home directory. First unmount the disk with command

```
sudo umount /dev/sda1
```

then change folder empty folder ownership to user pi by typing

```
sudo chown -R pi:pi usb8gb
```

then mount drive so that pi user could perform operations normally:

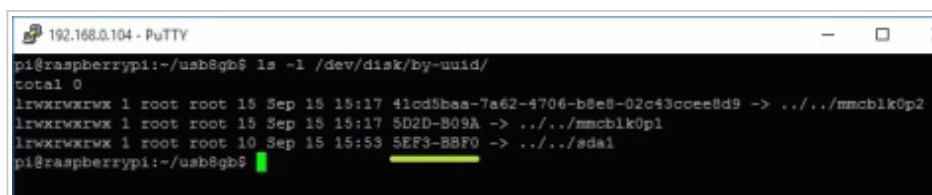
```
sudo mount /dev/sda1 usb8gb -o uid=pi,gid=pi
```

after this you can read write and delete files in your usb drive.

As a step further lets make this mounting process automatic so we don't have to mount every time after reboot. Lets first identify our drive. Each drive carries unique ID. To find one lets type command

```
ls -l /dev/disk/by-uuid/
```

This gives us a list with drives:



```
pi@raspberrypi:~/usb8gb$ ls -l /dev/disk/by-uuid/
total 0
lrwxrwxrwx 1 root root 15 Sep 15 15:17 41cd5baa-7a62-4706-b8e8-02c43ccee8d9 -> ../../mmcblk0p2
lrwxrwxrwx 1 root root 15 Sep 15 15:17 5D2D-B09A -> ../../mmcblk0p1
lrwxrwxrwx 1 root root 10 Sep 15 15:53 5EF3-BBF0 -> ../../sda1
pi@raspberrypi:~/usb8gb$
```

Simply copy this eight digit number and then edit **fstab** file:

```
sudo nano /etc/fstab
```

Add the following line to the end of file:

```
UUID=5EF3-BBF0 /home/pi/usb8gb auto,users,rw,uid=pi,gid=pi 0 0
```

To test if its working reboot raspbery pi:

```
sudo reboot
```

then try to see if usb disc content are present on usb8gb folder with command

```
ls usb8gb
```

Final note. Using UUID in fstab gives some advantage over using /dev/sda1. This way you can have a collection of USB drives where each can be mounted automatically to its own mounting point. But if you want one universal mounting point for all USB drives then add following line to fstab file:

```
/dev/sda1 /home/pi/usb8gb auto,users,rw,uid=pi,gid=pi 0 0
```

If you have questions or more to add, please comment.

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