Advanced Format
Technology Brief

What is Advanced Format?

Advanced Format technology enables hard drive companies to read and write more data onto the same available space on the hard drive. Advanced Format technology is being adopted by WD and other drive manufacturers to increase media format efficiency, thus enabling larger drive capacities.

What are the benefits of drives with Advanced Format technology?

Advanced Format technology enables hard drive companies to more efficiently utilize the available space on a hard drive, resulting in the ability to produce larger hard drive capacities.

Advanced Format technology improves data integrity by providing a more efficient Error Correction Code (ECC) scheme, resulting in a 50% improvement in burst error correction.

WD Advanced Format drives are also specifically optimized for Mac® and the latest Windows® operating systems such as Windows Vista® and Windows 7 with a clean install.

Which drives are currently shipping with Advanced Format technology?

WD is currently implementing Advanced Format technology on select WD Caviar® Green™ and WD Scorpio® Blue™ models. Over time, more models and capacities will be added.

WD Caviar Green
Desktop Hard Drives

640 GB	WD6400AARS
800 GB	WD8000AARS
1 TB	WD10EARS
1.5 TB	WD15EARS
2 TB	WD20EARS

WD Scorpio Blue
Mobile Hard Drives

750 GB	WD7500KPVT
1 TB	WD10TPVT

How do I know if a drive has Advanced Format technology?

WD drives with Advanced Format technology include special installation information on the drive label, so be sure to read the label on your drive before installing it.

Advanced Format Drive. To achieve full performance:

- Windows XP, multi partition and cloning software users- use WD Align software available on www.wdc.com/advformat

- Windows XP, single partition- set jumpers 7-8 prior to installation or use WD Align software

- All other OS software configurations- drive is ready to use as is

WD Align software

Your customer's WD Advanced Format hard drive may require running the WD Align software utility after installing the operating system or partitioning and formatting the drive as a secondary drive. WD Align software is available for download at: www.westerndigital.com/advformat

WD Align software aligns partitions on the Advanced Format drive to ensure it provides full performance for certain configurations. (See table for configuration details)

OS used to create partition	Clean install 1 Partition	Clean install > 1 Partition	Cloning utility 1 Partition or > 1 Partition	USB** 1 Partition	USB** > 1 Partition
Windows XP	**Jumper pins 7-8* or run WD Align**	**Run WD Align**	**Run WD Align**	**Run WD Align**	**Run WD Align**
Windows Vista	**NA**	**NA**	**Run WD Align**	**NA**	**NA**
Windows 7	**NA**	**NA**	**Run WD Align**	**NA**	**NA**
Mac OS	**NA**	**NA**	**NA**	**NA**	**NA**

*   Jumper settings only apply to 3.5-inch drives. Install jumper prior to drive installation. Do NOT install jumper after formatting drive.
**   Disconnect all other USB storage devices prior to running WD Align utility.
NA   No additional preparation required. Drive is ready to use as is.

For complete details and a list of FAQs, please visit www.westerndigital.com/advformat