HDD format tool - 6 ways to format disk drive

Many computer users encountered this problem that when you access a disk partition, Windows prompt to format this partition. Sometimes, there are many files in a partition, you want to copy some files and completely format this partition. Some virus stores in the disk partition, but the antivirus software cannot get rid of it, so you have to format this partition. Some users want to erase sensitive files from computer by formatting the partitions.

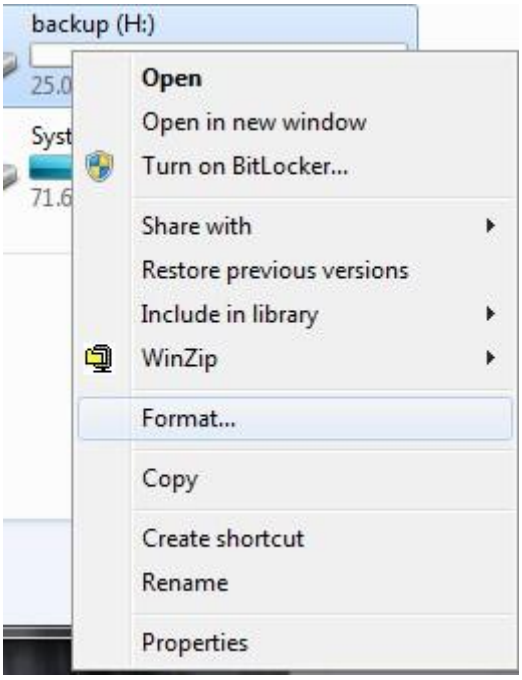
So I collect 6 **HDD format tools** to format disk partition.

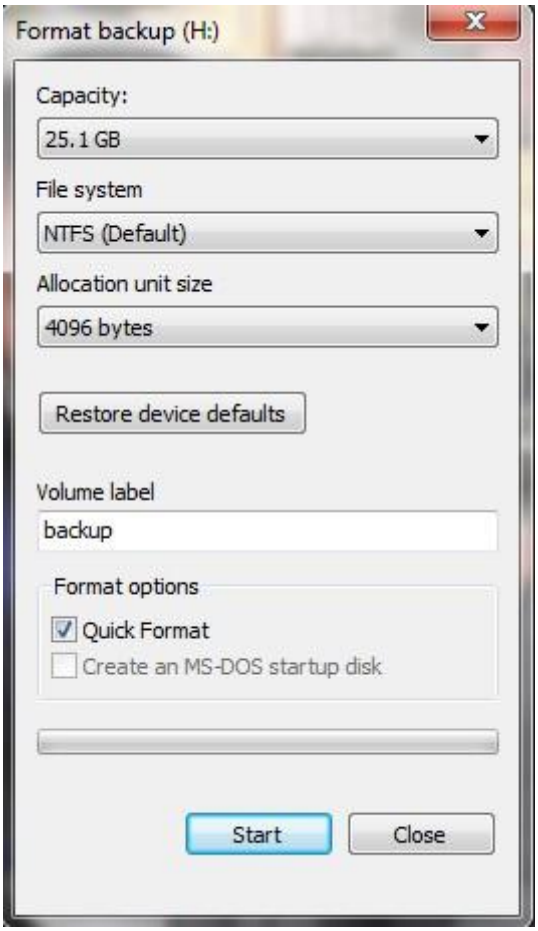
- **FDISK**

This disk format tool is very old, which is used in Windows 95, 98, Me, the later Windows do not integrates this format tool, so skip this instruction, if you are interested in this format tool, please see http://support.microsoft.com/kb/255867

- **Format partition in My Computer**

Open My Computer or Explorer (Windows & E), right-click the partition you want to format and choose “Format” command.

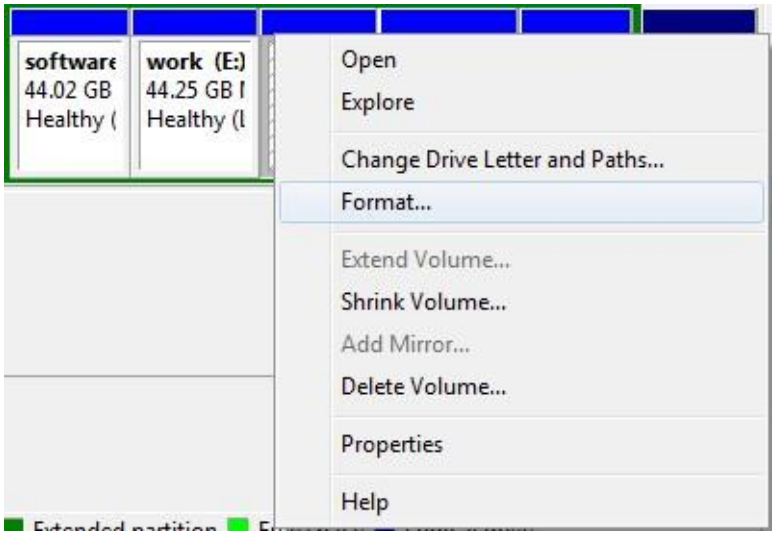


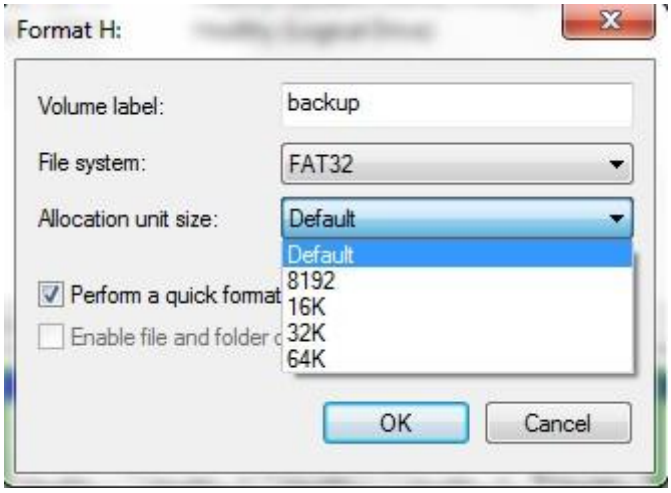


In this window, you may change File System, change cluster size, and choose Quick format or full format (uncheck Quick Format means full format, in Windows 7 full format will erase data completely and files cannot be recovered by recovery software). See Quick format and Full format difference.

- **Format partition by disk management**

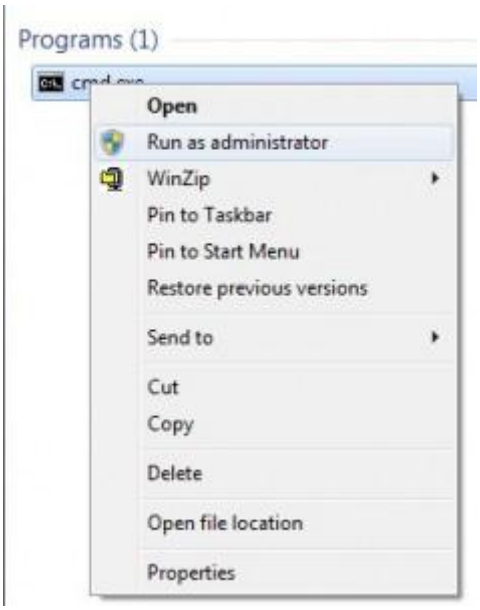
Right click "My Computer" > Manage > Storage > Disk Management, right click the partition and choose "Format".





- **Format partition by format command line**

Click Start > Run, input cmd, press Enter. If you use Windows Vista or Windows 7, after input cmd, please right this command and run as Administrator.



Input "format /?" you'll get more parameters and information.

```
Administrator: C:\Windows\System32\cmd.exe
C:\Windows\system32>format /?
Formats a disk for use with Windows.

FORMAT volume [/FS:file-system] [/V:label] [/Q] [/A:size] [/C] [/X] [/P:passes]
[/S:state]
FORMAT volume [/V:label] [/Q] [/F:size] [/P:passes]
FORMAT volume [/V:label] [/Q] [/T:tracks /N:sectors] [/P:passes]
FORMAT volume [/V:label] [/Q] [/P:passes]
FORMAT volume [/Q]

  volume          Specifies the drive letter (followed by a colon),
                  mount point, or volume name.
  /FS:filesystem  Specifies the type of the file system (FAT, FAT32, exFAT, NTFS
,
                  or UDF).
  /V:label        Specifies the volume label.
  /Q              Performs a quick format. Note that this switch overrides /P.
  /C              NTFS only: Files created on the new volume will be compressed
                  by default.
  /X              Forces the volume to dismount first if necessary.  All opened
                  handles to the volume would no longer be valid.
  /R:revision     UDF only: Forces the format to a specific UDF version
                  (1.02, 1.50, 2.00, 2.01, 2.50).  The default
                  revision is 2.01.
  /D              UDF 2.50 only: Metadata will be duplicated.
```

Format Command Line

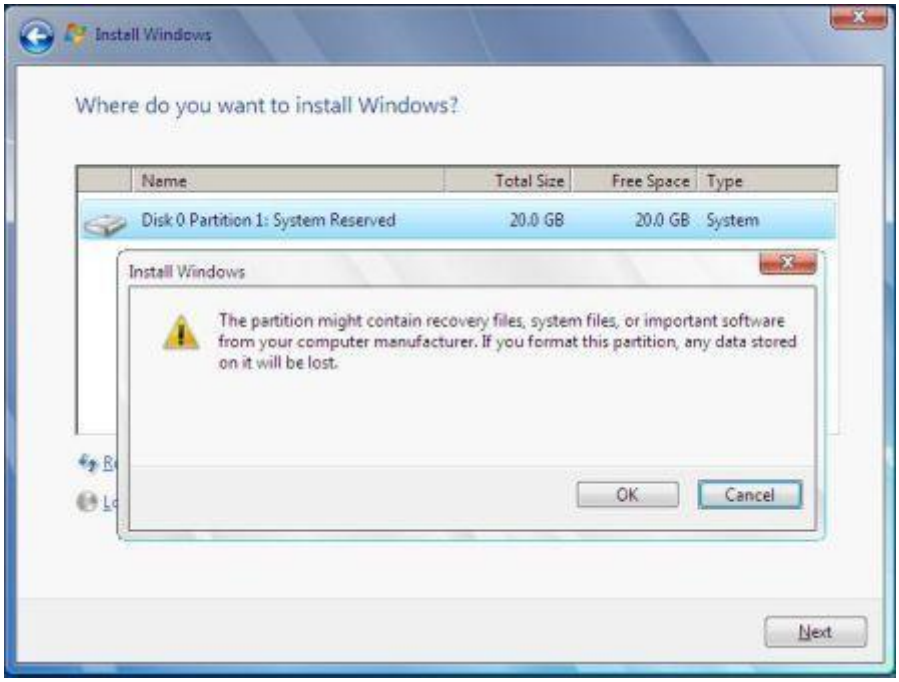
```
Administrator: C:\Windows\System32\cmd.exe - format h:
C:\Windows\system32>format h:
The type of the file system is NTFS.
Enter current volume label for drive H: backup

WARNING, ALL DATA ON NON-REMOVABLE DISK
DRIVE H: WILL BE LOST!
Proceed with Format (Y/N)? y
Formatting 25729M
4 percent completed.
```

- **Format partition by Windows setup CD/DVD**

Windows XP and Windows 7 setup CD/DVD is different, for Windows XP, please refer http://support.microsoft.com/kb/313348

For Windows 7, see the picture below:



Format Partition-Setup-DVD

- **Format partition by partitioning software**

The easiest **HDD format tool** is partitioning software, for example, Partition Magic, Acronis Disk Director, Paragon Partition Manager, EASEUS Partition Master. EASEUS Partition Master is free for home users.

Note about **HDD format tools**:

- Format will cause data losing, but by data recovery software, you can recover these files, but for Windows 7 Full Format, you cannot do this. Please be caution.
- Erase data by format partition is not a good idea, see Erase data by free utilities.
- These disk format tools is used for Advanced Format, for low level format, please refer low level format tool.
- If you encountered any error when formatting partitions, try format command line.

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