

DIGITAL STORAGE DEVICES



Device Name: Jaz Drive

Date Introduced: 1GB in 1995; 2GB in 1998

Dates in Use: 1998-2004

Variations and/or Identifying Features: removable disk drive. Both the Jaz drive and the disks come in two sizes, 1GB and 2GB. The two sizes look similar, but a 2GB disk is not compatible with a 1GB Jaz drive. The 2GB Jaz drive can use both disk sizes. It is a single hard disk platter in a removable enclosure, with the motors and heads in the fixed drive. It features a 12ms seek time and a transfer rate of 5.5 Mbps. Jaz drives are primarily external devices, typically connected to a SCSI port.

Common Manufacturers/Brands: Iomega Corporation

Associated Software: IomegaWare is the software necessary to install the drive. A Jaz drive comes with software to back up the hard disk, to record and playback voice, music and video files, to temporarily use the Jaz drive on another computer, and to duplicate Jaz disks using one Jaz drive

Associated Media: Jaz Disks

Interface: The Jaz drive uses the Small Computer System Interface (Small Computer System Interface) and requires a SCSI controller. Jaz drives are SCSI devices and are available as an external drive with a 50-pin SCSI-2 self-terminating interface or an internal 3-1/2 format drive with a 50-pin header interface. Jaz drives come with ultra-SCSI interface connector and require a separate SCSI card (unless you use Macintosh).

Primary Usage: Backup storage /everyday storage The Jaz 1GB and 2GB drives and disks were commonly used in industries such as graphic design and publishing, software development, industrial 3D CAD/CAM, enterprise management systems and entertainment

authoring markets. Jaz drives are also used to exchange files with others, to store unusually large files, and to keep certain files separate from files on your hard disk. The Jaz drive is different from a Zip drive in that the computer recognizes it as another hard disk, which allows the user to install and use applications from the Jaz drive. The Jaz drive runs at speeds near or equal to traditional hard disks.

Risks: Click Of Death, Click Death, and COD are names describing the first symptom of a set of serious data threatening problems being encountered with increasing frequency among users of Iomega's Zip and Jaz removable media mass storage systems. Without any warning a Click Of Death drive begins emitting a series of audible and distinctive clicking sounds, either when a cartridge is first inserted or when attempting to read or write data to or from a previously inserted cartridge.

Another challenge for removable drives comes from contamination. Four magnetic heads in the Jaz 2 GB drive (one head per disk surface) are flying over the rigid magnetic disks at velocities (about 5400 RPM) comparable to that in the fixed hard drives, but the environment they operate in is much dirtier. The durability of the head - disk interface depends strongly on the absence of particulate contamination in the disk atmosphere and on the surfaces of the disk and slider.

The SCSI interface will probably become obsolete too, replaced by USB. SCSI (Small Computer Systems Interface) is an old (1984) standard for connecting such things as storage devices and scanners to computers. The original SCSI specification has been updated many times and exists in many forms such as Wide SCSI, Fast SCSI, Ultra SCSI and various combinations thereof.

Conservation Actions: JAZ drives are all magnetic media, and magnetic media is not recommended for long-term storage

The best practice would be to transfer the information to archival hard disks while it is possible. The Jaz has been discontinued and although Iomega still have a number of them in stock, they will be soon be obsolete.

Resources:

Jaz Drive How To: <http://www.faqs.org/docs/Linux-HOWTO/Jaz-Drive-HOWTO.html>

Iomega Official Website: http://www.iomega.com/support/manuals/jaz2e/get_help_us.html

Digital Preservation – Library of Congress: <http://www.digitalpreservation.gov/>

CNET - Iomega addresses Click of Death by Paul Festa, Staff Writer, CNET NEWS.COM, February 11, 1998

DIGITAL STORAGE MEDIA: Jaz Disks



Media Format: Jaz Disks

Media Type: disk

Date Introduced: 1GB 1995; 2GB 1998

Dates in Use: 1998-2004- It has been discontinued and replaced by the Rev Drive (35GB)

Dimensions: 3.7 x 3.5 inch (~95 mm) disks.

Capacity: 1GB or 2GB.

Media Variations and/or Identifying Features: Both the Jaz drive and the disks come in two sizes, 1 GB and 2 GB. The two sizes look similar, but a 2 GB disk is not compatible with a 1 GB Jaz drive. The 2 GB Jaz drive can use both disk sizes

Common Manufacturers/Brands: Iomega Corporation

Associated Hardware: Jaz Drive

Primary Usage: data back-up storage

Risks: see Jaz drive

Conservation Actions:

Jaz drives are all magnetic media, and magnetic media is NOT recommended for long-term storage.

Apart from good storage and handling practices, and the maintenance of redundant copies, the best action would be to transfer the information in the disks to an archival hard drive before the hardware becomes obsolete.