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Handling New Media
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Assignment #2

DIGITAL STORAGE DEVICES—JAZ

Device Name: Jaz Drives

Date Introduced: 1GB drive introduced in 1995; 2GB drive introduced in 1997

Dates in Use: 1995 to 2003 (Iomega—primary manufacturer of Jaz storage media—discontinued production on Jaz drives but continues to provide support)

Dimensions: External drive-- 8.0" x 5.33" x 1.5"

Variations and/or Identifying Features: External drive that uses “hard disk” removable storage with 1GB or 2GB of memory; also comes as internal drive with removable storage; both external and internal drives originally used SCSI interface (adaptors for USB and Firewire have since been developed)

Common Manufacturers/Brands: Iomega Corporation, APS Technologies, LaCie

Associated Hardware: Iomega External and Internal Jaz Drives; APS Technologies' Jaz 2GB Pro; LaCie's 2 GB EKO External Jaz and 2GB d2 External Jaz

Associated Software: IomegaWare, Jaz Tools, Jaz Jet

Associated Media: 1GB and 2GB Jaz disks

Interface/Connectors: Originally a SCSI interface; in 1999, Iomega introduced USB adaptors and, later, Firewire connections (USB and Firewire both limited in operating system support)

Primary Usage: Jaz's portability and large capacity made it attractive for professionals—often professionals because the price of Jaz limited use in the general public's homes—to use it for creating, storing, cataloguing and sharing large files of graphic design, desktop publishing, multimedia, audio and video, among others.

Risk Assessment: An obsolete format, Iomega discontinued production on Jaz drives in 2003; external/removable drives tend to be more failure-prone than hard-drives; in 1996, the New York Times reported that Iomega estimates the Jaz disks' shelf-life to be 10 years; Iomega Jaz drives do not have internal cooling fans/devices, and therefore, constant use exposes disk and drive to continually high temperatures; the infamous "click of death" as experienced by many Jaz users describes the audible clicking sound the Jaz drive makes before it "dies" suddenly, affecting the disks as well (the "click of death" has also sparked class-action lawsuits to Iomega).

Conservation Actions: Jaz drives and disks are not recommended for long-term storage and any content on them should be duplicated in multiple storage media such as hard-drives, servers and other removable media more appropriate for long-term storage.

DIGITAL STORAGE MEDIA—JAZ DISKS

Media Format: Jaz Disks

Media Type: "rigid" disk/cartridge

Date Introduced: 1GB disk—December 1995; 2 GB disk—March 1998

Dates in Use: 1GB—1995 to present; 2GB—1997 to present [Iomega stopped production on new Jaz drives, but continues to sell Jaz disks and provide support]

Dimensions: 3.7 x 3.5 inches

Capacity: 1GB and 2 GB

Media Variations and/or Identifying Features: Removable storage disks with 3.5" rigid magnetic media; comes in 1GB and 2GB disks with the 2GB Jaz drive being backwards compatible (the 1GB drives, however, cannot read 2GB disks)

Common Manufacturers/Brands: Iomega

Associated Hardware: Iomega External and Internal Jaz Drives; APS Technologies' Jaz 2GB Pro; LaCie's 2 GB EKO External Jaz and 2GB d2 External Jaz

Associated Software: IomegaWare, Jaz Tools

Primary Usage: Jaz's portability and large capacity made it attractive for professionals—often professionals because the price of Jaz limited use in the general public's homes—to use it for creating, storing, cataloguing and sharing large files of graphic design, desktop publishing, multimedia, audio and video, among others.

Risk Assessment: An obsolete format, lomega discontinued production on Jaz drives in 2003; 1GB Jaz drives cannot read 2GB disks (2GB drives are backward compatible, however); external/removable drives tend to be more failure-prone than hard-drives; in 1996, the New York Times reported that lomega estimates the Jaz disks' shelf-life to be 10 years; lomega Jaz drives do not have internal cooling fans/devices, and therefore, constant use exposes disk and drive to continually high temperatures; the infamous "click of death" as experienced by many Jaz users describes the audible clicking sound the Jaz drive makes before it "dies" suddenly, affecting the disks as well (the "click of death" has also sparked class-action lawsuits to lomega).

Conservation Actions: Jaz drives and disks are not recommended for long-term storage and any content on them should be duplicated in multiple storage media such as hard-drives, servers and other removable media more appropriate for long-term storage.

Sources

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