



Frequently Asked Question about the SATA Universal Storage Module (USM) Specification

1. What is the USM specification?

The SATA Universal Storage Module (USM) specification allows developers to incorporate slots into televisions, game consoles, set-top boxes, computers, docking stations and other computer electronics applications that will accept powered, cable free storage modules with integrated SATA interfaces for expanded external storage capacity. Devices based on the specification are particularly well-suited for audio/video streaming and other consumer electronics applications.

2. How do devices based on the USM specification work?

Modules based on the USM specification build a standard SATA interface into a robust data module that can be plugged in to devices like TVs, game consoles, set-top boxes, desktop and notebook computers, and other consumer electronics applications to provide additional storage. CE devices based on the USM specification feature slots that accept USM modules.

3. What does the USM specification define?

The USM specification defines how the SATA interface is integrated into a module form factor, and how power is provided to the interface. A complementary specification under development in the Small Form Factor Committee (SFF) defines the form factor and size requirements for USM products.

4. What benefits do devices based on the USM specification provide?

Devices based on the USM specification extend the speed and reliability of Serial ATA technology from the PC storage space to a variety of consumer electronics applications like televisions, game consoles and set-top boxes, as well as desktop and notebook computers. Additionally, USM devices are the first products to provide a portable, 6Gb/s powered SATA solution for consumer applications, enabling consumers to instantly

access movies, music and other content, and to transfer content between devices without having to carry a cable, connector or power supply.

5. What transfer rates does the USM Specification support?

The USM specification supports the current SATA data rate of 6Gb/s. Devices based on the specification will also be able to degrade their speed for compatibility with products designed to previous generation SATA specifications.

6. Do devices based on the USM specification require any additional cables or equipment?

No. Because the USM specification integrates the SATA interface into a module form factor, USM modules can simply be plugged in to host devices in order to deliver additional storage capacity.

7. When can we expect the USM specification to be available?

The USM specification is currently under development within the Serial ATA International Organization (SATA-IO). SATA-IO expects the specification to be completed and available later this year.

8. Does the USM specification address content protection?

No. The USM specification defines how the SATA interface is integrated into a module form factor. Implementation of content protection technologies will be addressed by individual device manufacturers whose products support the standard.