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## External HD Enclosure

There is a variety of different types of external hard drives. It is hard to decide which one you need. There is SATA external hard drives and there are external IDE drives. Here is information on determining if you have an IDE or a SATA drive and connections.

External hard drives are great to use.

Best way to explain the functionality of it is to use an example. Mary works at home, and she works at an office. She has too many files that she uses at both locations and needs to move them back and forth.

She can use a flash drive or an external hard drive but there are disadvantages of it.

Advantages of a flash drive

1. Easy to transport files from one system to another
2. Usually, small so easy to carry
3. Does not require a power supply
4. Relatively inexpensive to buy

Disadvantages of a flash drive

1. Not all systems can handle a flash drive
2. Lifespan is not as durable as a hard drive
3. Easy to lose
4. Larger the flash drives the more expensive it can be

### Advantage of an external hard drive

1. Files are portable
2. The size of a drive can be bigger than a flash drive.
3. The drive is more durable
4. You can salvage a hard drive from a computer no longer being used. The drive can be put in a external case and be connected externally to another system

### Disadvantages of an external hard drive

1. Can be more expensive
2. Bulky to carry
3. You can use an external drive that uses the computer power or one that provides its own power
  - a. If the drive uses the computers power, there may not be enough power for the hard drive if the power supply on the computer is not powerful enough.
  - b. If the drive has its own power, you will need an outlet to plug it in and it is bulkier than the ones without.
  - c. The ones with its own power are usually more expensive
4. Lifespan of external hard drives are shorter than internal drives.

**Note:** As with all drives, a backup should always be done in the event of a failure.

### Two types of external hard drives

- [IDE](#)
- [SATA](#)

The external drive enclosures will connect to the computer via USB but inside the enclosure will be designed for an IDE or a SATA drive.

There are enclosures available to put internal hard drives into to make them portable.  
There are two different sizes

There are two different size enclosures.



2.5 enclosure



3.5 enclosure

You can also buy external hard drives (they are the same as the ones above, but they are already put together)



**NOTE:** The enclosures that you put the hard drive into has two versions

- Powered - will have a power cord (**Recommended**)
- Unpowered (**no power cord**)

The unpowered relies on the power supply of the computer it is attached to. If the power supply is a lower size power supply, you may not be able to get the external hard drive to work or it might be flaky.