

Plasmon UDO Driver

Product Release Notes

Release Details

Release Name	Windows UDO Driver
Release Note Number	01
Release Version	2.05.25
Release Date	18 November 2010
Release Type	Feature release
UDO Drive Firmware Version	UDO1 U06B and UDO2 W06B
Documentation Version	UDO Driver User Guide Revision O
Supported Platforms	Windows XP Professional (SP2) Windows 2003 Server Standard Edition (SP1 & SP2) Windows 2003 R2 Windows Vista 32/64-bit) Business Windows 7 (32/64-bit) Enterprise Windows 2008 R2 Standard (64-bit)
Supported Languages	English, Japanese

Product Enhancements

New Feature/Enhancement	Description/Benefit
Add metadata journaling feature to UDO Driver to speed up UDO Repair	Improve performance of repair by performing an incremental scan of the disk. Also the extent of meta data corruption due to power failure is significantly reduced. Journals are stored in the installation folder e.g. C:\Program Files\UDO Driver\Journal Files
64-bit support	Driver has been digitally signed to allow clean (unprompted) installation of kernel driver on all versions of Windows. This is mandatory for 64-bit versions.

Bug Fixes in This Release

Bug ID	Problem description: (Fixed)
171	Explorer freezes and driver locks up when reading/writing while viewing the media in explorer view.
32	OS reboots when USB drive is disconnected during a wrote or read operation
295	Sometimes the mount progress popup hangs indefinitely when a UDO disc is ejected and the same disc is loaded back in within 30 seconds.
276	UDF and AFS do not return an error on flush for write-protected or read only volumes
274	UDO Repair logs number of bad sectors on disk incorrectly
276	UDF and AFS do not return an error on flush for write-protected or read only volumes



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Bug Fixes in Previous Releases

Bug ID	Problem description: (Fixed in this release)
249	Compliant media no longer formats
229	UDO Repair displays incorrect log messages



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Known Issues

Issue	Details and Workaround
Data stream error (Bug ID 6024)	When copying image files to UDO media, a Windows generated error may be seen as follows: The file 'Thumbs.db' contains more than one data stream, but the destination volume does not support this feature. Workaround: Omit the Thumbs.db file from the copy.
Appending data to shredded files (Bug ID 6214)	Using the Windows API call <i>CreateFile()</i> , a shredded file may be opened and data appended. Workaround: This may be safely ignored.
Writing data to the Archive file system over a network (Bug ID 6887)	Writing data over a network using the Archive file system is not recommended. The Windows network layer attempts to optimize caching by sending the data non-sequentially. To cope with this the Archive file system writes additional meta-data to the disk to ensure the data can be correctly reconstructed. Unfortunately this can cause significant delays when the data is read back. Workaround: Transfer data to the local system prior to writing to a UDO disk, or: Transfer data using a utility that specifies the <i>FILE_FLAG_WRITE_THROUGH</i> and <i>FILE_FLAG_NO_BUFFERING</i> flags when it opens the target file. Windows Explorer does this.
UDO Driver 1.01 and 1.02 series (Bug ID 7379)	Previous releases of UDO Driver, the 1.01 and 1.02 series, are not compatible with UDO Driver 2 and will prevent it installing. Workaround: Uninstall any existing UDO Driver version 1.01 or 1.02 before installing UDO Driver 2.
Windows Backup on XP (Bug ID 8020)	The Alliance UDO file systems currently do not support the Windows Backup utility on XP. Workaround: Back up to a file on the local hard disk and then copy that file to UDO media.
Eject media before changing drive letter. (Bug ID 10128)	On XP systems, an error is encountered if media is present in the UDO drive when changing its drive letter assignment. Workaround: Eject any media before changing drive letters.
UDO drive is unmounted after hibernate on Vista (Bug ID 11500)	If the Hibernate function is used on a Vista system, any mounted UDO disks will be in the unmounted state when the system wakes up. Workaround: Eject and re-insert the media after hibernation.

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Autoplay on Windows XP	Windows' autoplay functionality can cause long delays when mounting media. In XP, even if autoplay is disabled on in the device properties, Explorer will still perform time-consuming searches on the root of the disk. This can be prevented by deleting all the values in the following registry key: <i>HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Explorer\AutoplayHandlers\CancelAutoplay\Files</i> Additionally, if you wish to prevent Explorer from opening a window to the root of the disk, you can add a new empty <i>String Value</i> to this key named * (a single asterisk).



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FAT32 and NTFS formats	If Windows detects an unformatted disk it can prompt to format it with FAT32 or NTFS. Neither of these file systems support 8K sectored UDO media properly, so this option should be ignored.
"My Computer" details view	When the My Computer window is set to the "Details" view, the "Total Size" and "Free Space" columns are always empty for UDO drives. Microsoft has acknowledged that this is a known issue in Windows that affects most removable media devices.
Co-existence with Diamond Library Manager	Diamond Library Manager can be installed on the same system as UDO Driver, but it will take control of UDO drives by default. Control can be given back to Windows (and therefore UDO Driver) using the "Diamond SCSI Device Selection" applet.
Un-installation	The following files can remain on the system following un-installation of the UDO Driver: <i>Recover.cfg, Stan.log, Stan.prev.log</i>
Restricted access for non Administrators	Windows places restrictions on the operations that can be performed on removable media devices if the current user is not a member of the Administrator group. For example, the user may not eject the disk once it has been formatted.
Querying shredded data	Once a sector has been shredded, any read-back attempt for that sector will activate the drive's error correction mode, and the drive will make several attempts to read the sector after the initial scan fails. For this reason, actions taken to verify that a file has been shredded can take much longer than normal reads.
Volume label length	Windows sometimes exhibits inconsistent behaviour if the volume label of a disk is longer than 11 characters. This behaviour is cosmetic in nature and can be safely ignored.
Open handles	Any application (including Windows Explorer) can leave handles open to files, directories or the volume itself, even after the application is closed. These open handles can prevent further operations until the disk is dismounted and remounted.
Concurrent writes use more meta-data.	Writing several files simultaneously results in interleaved data streams on the media, which increases meta-data overhead for the files. Alliance recommends writing files sequentially rather than concurrently to optimize media usage.
Security and permissions	The Alliance UDO Driver does not support the "Security" tab in the file properties, in line with Microsoft's policy regarding removable media. If sensitive data needs to be secured, Alliance suggests using a strong encryption package.
Adaptec SCSI cards on Windows XP	The Adaptec SCSI card drivers have a known issue on Windows XP that causes slow transfer speeds. This can be fixed by installing the latest drivers from Adaptec.
UDO 30GB disks in UDO2 60GB drives	UDO2 (60GB) drives do not support writing to UDO (30GB) media. If this is attempted, the copy will fail with the Windows message "Incorrect function".
Windows Vista shows a misleading message with full Write Once media.	On Windows Vista, if a delete is attempted on a full Write Once disk, a message about moving files to the recycle bin is shown. This is due to a bug in Explorer that Microsoft has documented as KB 954802.



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Alliance UDO Driver support statement

Alliance strives to provide support for the most popular versions of the Windows Operating System (Windows) and Service Packs. This support includes the addition of new features, support for new Service Packs as necessary and bug fixes. In addition, we aim to provide timely support for new versions of Windows as they become available. Often, Alliance can add new features and address bug fixes without requiring any special support from Windows. However, there may be instances where Alliance would have to rely on a fix to Windows provided by Microsoft. For these instances, it is critical that the Windows version still be in the Mainstream Support Phase (i.e. within 5 years of release).

Since Alliance relies heavily on Microsoft to resolve certain issues, Alliance's support lifecycle for its Windows based products is consistent with Microsoft's support lifecycle for its Operating System versions. Hence as Microsoft's Operating Systems move into the Extended Support (>5 years) and Self-Help Phases (>10 years), Alliance's ability to request fixes related to Windows issues will be hampered. Therefore, Alliance strongly recommends that customers stay current with Windows releases that are still in the Mainstream Support Phase. Alliance reserves the right to end of life support for UDO Driver on certain versions of Windows as practical due to the above issues and concerns.

For more information on Microsoft's support lifecycle, please refer to the following website:
<http://support.microsoft.com/?LN=en-us&x=8&y=13&scid=fh%3Ben-us%3Blifecycle>



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