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r/techsupport • 7 yr. ago  
tiffanythesalamander

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## USB Flash Drive does not contain a recognized file system and is not working.

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So I have a USB Flash Drive with a ton of files on it, mostly photos that I would love to save, but when I plug it in the error message "E:\ is not accessible. The volume does not contain a recognized file system. Please make sure that all required file system drivers are loaded and that the volume is not corrupted." I've tried a few things to no avail.

When running CHKDSK the initial message "The file system is RAW. CHKDSK is not available for RAW drives." came up. When I tried again today the message "Cannot open volume for direct access." popped up instead.

I have tried Recuva to no success. Recuva comes up with the issue of "Cannot open volume for direct access." when I try and go through that route.

Yes, I have tried different ports and even different computers and operating systems (Windows 7 and 10) and the

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I've rescued data from corrupted USB sticks using [photorec/testdisk](#), but if you get to this point (which with what you've stated in your OP, I would be on to this step), be warned, you are going to get the content of the files, with absolutely no way to recover the names or folder structure. You will be left with a heap of 90823145837509175.ext files to pick through.

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This might be more than you want to know, but it's free:

<https://www.makeuseof.com/tag/external-drive-not-recognized-this-is-how-to-fix-it-in-windows/>

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External HDD stopped working - "You need to format the disk in drive E: before you can use it" - "The volume does not contain a recognized file system..."

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