

# Simple file transfer and store

## ThumbDrive Smart

### The small plug and play storage device

by Reuben Lee

MAKING it easier than ever to transfer data from one PC to another is the latest product from Trek - the ThumbDrive Smart.

This new storage device is designed to be used without the troublesome installation of drivers to detect it. All you need is simply plug in the drive and start transferring your files.

According to its specifications, the ThumbDrive Smart is supposed to be compatible on systems running Windows 98/98SE/2000/Me/XP, as well as Mac OS 8.6 and above.

However, when we tested it on several of our Windows 98SE systems, our pre-production test sample worked only after we installed the drivers. It can run, without having to install drivers, on Windows Me and Windows 2000 though.

We clarified this with an engineer from Trek and were told that the final product would work smoothly in Windows 98/98SE.

Other than the slight incompatibility issue, the new Trek drive performed remarkably well.

Like all other USB storage devices, it was recognised as a removable drive in Windows Explorer once it was connected. Thus, transferring files is just a matter of drag and drop (or copy and paste).

While it takes just about a minute to transfer

approximately 16MB of data to the ThumbDrive Smart, we were impressed with the fact that you can actually playback MPEG movies or MP3 files off the drive directly. It even comes with a write protection lock to prevent important data from being accidentally erased.

It should be noted that the ThumbDrive uses SmartMedia flash memory technology in its design. Therefore, it can withstand shocks and vibrations to a reasonably high level without being damaged since it has no mechanical parts.

And because of its low power consumption, it can be powered using the USB port, without the need for an external power supply.

Weighing merely 12 grams and measuring 64 by 18 by 8 mm, the tiny ThumbDrive Smart comes in various capacities from eight to 128MB. Capacities higher than 128MB (up till 512MB) will also be available soon after, but it is expected to be slightly longer and heavier in design.

The price has yet to be confirmed but Trek has indicated that they would most likely be selling it at US\$1 per megabyte.

To be released simultaneously is the



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#### PROS :

- Designed to be used without driver installation
- Simple drag and drop, or copy and paste, to transfer files
- Can playback MPEG movies or MP3 files
- Write protection lock prevents data from accidental erasure
- Light (12 grams) and small (64 by 18 by 18 mm)

#### CONS :

- Pre-production test sample needed driver for Windows 98SE

**PRICE :** Not confirmed

**Availability:** Expected in September

**Requires :** USB port; CD-ROM drive

**Company :** Trek 2000 Int'l Ltd;  
www.thumbdrive.com

ThumbDrive Touch, which is expected to cost a little more at US\$1.20 per megabyte that uses fingerprint recognition access technology. This device is aimed at those who want to store confidential data.

According to Trek's R&D manager, the company is currently exploring ways to make use of the ThumbDrive in other products such as digital cameras and MP3 players. There are also plans to develop higher capacity and more affordable drives in the future.