ASUS Disk Unlocker User Guide

ASUS Disk Unlocker, an ASUS-exclusive utility, provides an intuitive interface that identifies all of your hard disk drive (HDD) spaces and allows you to use all of these spaces, breaking the HDD size limitation of various operating systems.

> ASUS Disk Unlocker is designed for hard disk drives with more than 2048GB capacity.

> • ASUS Disk Unlocker is exclusively for ASUS motherboards only.
>
> • For Intel® platforms, Disk Unlocker supports IDE, AHCI, and RAID modes. For RAID mode, ensure that you created the RAID set using Intel® Rapid Storage Technology 10.5/ Intel® Rapid Storage Technology Enterprise 3.0.0 or later versions.
>
> • On AMD® platforms, Disk Unlocker supports IDE mode only. AHCI and RAID modes require future AMD® official updates.
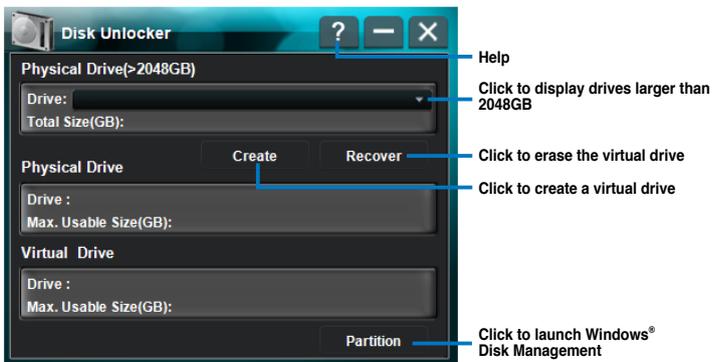
Installing ASUS Disk Unlocker

To install ASUS Disk Unlocker:

1. Insert the ASUS Support DVD to the optical drive.

2. When the menu appears, click **Utility** tab **> Software > Disk Unlocker**.

3. Follow the onscreen instructions to complete the installation.

> • For operating system, BIOS and partition format compatibility, refer to sections **Partition style information** and **Disk Unlocker operating system compatibility** for details.
>
> • Due to operating system's structure, Windows® XP requires driver installation for Disk Unlocker support. Refer to section **Loading the ASUS Disk Unlocker during Windows® XP Installation** for more details.
>
> • After installing ASUS Disk Unlocker in Windows® XP operating system, restart your system to complete the installation.

Help

Click to display drives larger than 2048GB

Click to erase the virtual drive

Click to create a virtual drive

Click to launch Windows® Disk Management

Creating a virtual drive

To create a virtual drive, select a drive from the **Drive** dropdown list then click **Create**. An unallocated drive space appears in the **Virtual Drive** field.

- Only drives that have more than 2048GB capacity will be shown in the **Drive** dropdown list.

- To partition the newly-created virtual drive, click **Partition** to launch Windows® Disk Management.

- The virtual drives that you created with ASUS Disk Unlocker utility will be removed if you uninstall this utility.

- Drives smaller than 2048GB or in GPT (GUID Partition Table) format will not appear in the **Drive** dropdown list. Refer to section **Partition Style information** for more details about GPT format.

- For Windows® 8/7/Vista operating systems or later versions, convert the drive to GPT format using Windows® Disk Management to fully utlilize the virtual drive created with ASUS Disk Unlocker.

- We recommend you to use Windows® Drive Management to manage the drive for better compatibility and upgradability when you use the virtual drive as a data drive.

Deleting a virtual drive

To delete a virtual drive, click **Recover**.

Ensure that you back up all your data to another storage device before deleting your virtual drive.

Partition style information

The following partition styles are used to organize partitions on the disk.

Master Boot Record (MBR)

This partition style is a 512-byte boot sector that contains a small amount of executable code called the master boot code. The partition table in this style is used to identify the type and location of partitions on the hard disk drive.

GUID Partition Table (GPT)

This partition style is a part of the Extensible Firmware Interface (EFI) initiative and provides a more flexible mechanism for partitioning disks than the Master Boot Record (MBR). This style is commonly used for computers.

GPT is not supported under some operating systems due to operating system limitations. Refer to the tables under section **Disk Unlocker compatibility** for more information.

Disk Unlocker operating system compatibility

Disk Unlocker compatibility for Windows® 8/7/Vista

BIOS Type	Operating System Format	64-bit						32-bit					
		Boot			Data			Boot			Data		
	Mode	IDE	AHCI	RAID	IDE	AHCI	RAID	IDE	AHCI	RAID	IDE	AHCI	RAID
Legacy BIOS	MBR without Disk Unlocker	HDD space is unable to be utilized.											
	MBR with Disk Unlocker	O	O*	O**	O	O*	O**	O	O*	O**	O	O*	O**
	GPT without Disk Unlocker	N/A			O	O	X	N/A			O	O	X
	GPT with Disk Unlocker	N/A			O	O	X	N/A			O	O	X
UEFI BIOS	MBR without Disk Unlocker	HDD space is unable to be utilized.											
	MBR with Disk Unlocker	O	O*	O**	O	O*	O**	O	O*	O**	O	O*	O**
	GPT without Disk Unlocker	O	O*	O**	O	O*	O**	N/A			O	O*	O**
	GPT with Disk Unlocker	O	O*	O**	O	O*	O**	N/A			O	O*	O**

* Supports Intel Rapid Storage Technology 10.1/Intel Rapid Storage Technology Enterprise 3.0.0 or later versions.

** Supports Intel Rapid Storage Technology 10.5/Intel Rapid Storage Technology Enterprise 3.0.0 or later versions.

Disk Unlocker compatibility for Windows® XP

BIOS Type	Operating System	64-bit						32-bit					
	Format	Boot			Data			Boot			Data		
	Mode	IDE	AHCI	RAID	IDE	AHCI	RAID	IDE	AHCI	RAID	IDE	AHCI	RAID
Legacy BIOS	**MBR** without Disk Unlocker	HDD space is unable to be utilized.											
	MBR with Disk Unlocker	O	X	X	O	X	X	O	X	X	O	X	X
	GPT without Disk Unlocker	N/A			O	X	X	N/A					
	GPT with Disk Unlocker	N/A			O	X	X	N/A					
UEFI BIOS	**MBR** without Disk Unlocker	HDD space is unable to be utilized.											
	MBR with Disk Unlocker	O	X	X	O	X	X	O	X	X	O	X	X
	GPT without Disk Unlocker	N/A			O	X	X	N/A					
	GPT with Disk Unlocker	N/A			O	X	X	N/A					

- If you are using Windows ® XP operating system, load **Microsoft® Native IDE driver** before using ASUS Disk Unlocker.

- If you create a virtual drive on a USB external hard drive, the virtual drive will be identified as a removable device. Always use **Safely Remove Hardware** to remove the USB external hard drive from the system.

- We recommend you to connect the SATA drives to the motherboard's chipset-controlled SATA connectors for better compatibility.

- For better hardware compatibility, we recommend you to update your motherboard's BIOS to its latest version before using Disk Unlocker.

- For Windows® 8/7/Vista operating systems or later versions, convert the drive to GPT format using Windows Disk Management to fully utlilize the virtual drive created with ASUS Disk Unlocker.

- We recommend you to use Windows® Disk Management to manage the drive for better compatibility and upgradability when you use the drive as a data drive.

- You can use Windows® Disk Management to convert the physical hard drive's partition from MBR to GPT. This GPT conversion may lead to data loss if the drive's capacity is more than 2048GB and a virtual drive has been created using ASUS Disk Unlocker.

ASUS Disk Unlocker Installation Guide

Loading the ASUS Disk Unlocker during Windows® XP Installation

•   Ensure that your hard drive has more than 2048GB capacity.

•   From the bundled support DVD, copy and save ASUS Disk Unlocker Utility's **XP32** or **XP64** contents to the root directory of a blank 3.5 floppy disk or a USB storage device. Ensure that you copy and save the correct ASUS Disk Unlocker Utility based on the Windows® XP version that you want to install.

To load the ASUS Disk Unlocker:

1.   During Windows® XP installation, press <F6> key to install a third party SCSI or RAID driver upon system prompt.

2.   Press <S> key to add SCSI adapters.

3.   Insert the floppy disk to the floppy drive or the USB storage device to the USB port then press <Enter>.

4.   Select ASUS Disk Unlocker then press <Enter>.

5.   Follow the succeeding onscreen instructions to complete the installation.

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