Rescue Hard Drive Data
from a Dead Computer's Drive

From Mary

I got this email from my brother-in-law. They just got back from Florida. This is an old desktop, I believe it is still Win 7 or maybe older. His concern, I think, is to retrieve the files on the hard drive. I'm not sure what a "system reboot" is, I suspect it was a reset to factory settings. Does anyone have any suggestions on what he might try?

Perhaps we could discuss what to do when you get a "low power on your battery" message at our next meeting.

From the Brother-in-Law

When we got back I had a message on my desktop, low power on your battery. I didn't know my computer had a battery. I tried to start it and nothing happened so I did a system reboot. What I did was erase everything on my computer and still didn't get it to run. I finally figured out that I needed a new battery in my computer. I got one and it is running, but without anything that was on the old computer. Someone here is not real happy with me. Can a computer repair company retrive the lost files or are they gone? Is there a way to transfer some of the files from my laptop to the desktop? Did I tell you that I hate computers?

Reply from Jill

When my nice tiny tower XP computer suddenly died (and a new CMOS battery did not help) I bought this thing by Fideco with "USB3.0 to SATA to IDE Hard Drive Adapter Converter" on the box. Model S3G-PL03. Got it from Amazon of course. Not that expensive.

I pulled the hard drive from the XP computer and was able to transfer the contents to one of my laptops.

Not sure why a reboot would wipe the files (that is a Brent question) but if the data is still on the HD, this might be a way to recover it. I had to drill down through multiple layers (folders) to get to the actual data.

FIDECO SATA/IDE to USB 3.0 Adapter, Hard Drive Adapter Cable Converter for Universal 2.5/3.5 Inch IDE HDD, 2.5 Inch SSD, 5.25-Inch DVD-ROM/CD-ROM/CD-RW/DVD-...

★★★★½ ⌄ 8,161

100+ bought in past month

$25⁹⁹

Join Prime to buy this item at $23.39

✓prime

FREE delivery **Thu, May 2** on $35 of items shipped by Amazon

Or fastest delivery **Overnight 7 AM - 11 AM**

About this item

- 【Supported HDD/SSD】FIDECO IDE and SATA adapter is compatible with 2.5"/3.5" SATA/IDE hard drives. It can support the connection of 3 hard drives simultaneously: one 2.5" IDE, one 3.5" IDE, one 2.5"/3.5" SATA.

- 【Compatible System】FIDECO hard drive reader is widely compatible with Windows, Mac OS, and Linux. Just plug and play! No driver or software is needed!

- 【Maximum 5Gbps Super Speed】FIDECO hard drive adapter is engineered with USB 3.0 port and can offer data transfer speeds up to 5Gbps. It can be also backward compatible with USB 2.0/1.1. Data transfer has never been so much easier and faster.

- 【Easy Set-up】Simply insert your hard drive, connect the power adapter and USB cable, and then turn on the device by pressing the power switch. Note: For 3.5" IDE HDD, you need to connect the 4-pin power cable.

- 【Warm Note】For new hard drive, please go to "Disk Management" to initialize it first, and then your hard drive can be recognized. If 2.5" and 3.5" IDE hard drives are connected simultaneously, you need to set jumper. The default master is 2.5" IDE hard drive, so you need to set jumper for 3.5" IDE hard drive and set it to slave.