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COMPACTFLASH® SPECIFICATION ALLOWS FOR THE ADDRESSING OF UP TO 137GB.

CF™ cards greater than 2.2GB require FAT32 file system format

Las Vegas NV, March 2, 2003 - The CompactFlash Association is reinforcing that the CompactFlash Specification, since its first release in 1995 continues to support CompactFlash card capacities up to 137GB.

With the introduction of 3GB CompactFlash cards in November 2002, questions have been raised regarding what is the capacity addressing limit of CompactFlash cards? The original CompactFlash Specification allowed addressing for 137GB cards and this is still the current limit. Technology is available to increase CompactFlash addressing to 1TB (Terabyte), but is not a priority at this time.

There is another issue that limits the usable size of CompactFlash cards. Currently the FAT16 file system is used for cards up to 2.2GB. To use the full capacity of cards over 2.2GB capacity, the FAT32 file system is necessary.

The CFA is currently recommending that systems be designed to be compatible with FAT12, FAT16 and FAT32 file systems in order to be able to use the full capacity range of CompactFlash cards currently being offered. Some of the newest digital cameras now support FAT32.

The CompactFlash Association is exhibiting in PMA 2003 at booth number R76 in the Las Vegas Convention Center.

CompactFlash card slots are in MORE (over 260) digital cameras, MORE (over 110) handheld/palm-size PCs and MORE (over 195) other electronic platforms including heart monitors, defibrillators, printers, MP3 players, voice recorders, embedded computers, etc. than any other small form factor card.

CompactFlash cards have MORE compatibility and have MORE interchangeable than any other small form factor card.

CompactFlash and CF cards have MORE data storage capacity. CompactFlash card capacities have reached 3GB and the 4GB Microdrive has been announced.

CF I/O cards provide MORE communications capability. VGA, Ethernet, modem, serial, parallel, digital phone, GSM, Bluetooth and Ethernet wireless cards are all available.

CF cards do MORE. Wand & laser barcode scanners and GPS cards are available.

CompactFlash and CF cards have MORE companies manufacturing them than any other card.

CompactFlash can be used to store pictures taken with any CompactFlash compatible digital camera. The photo files can then be transferred to desktop PCs through high speed, low cost reader/writers that attach to the parallel port, USB port, FireWire port or CF slots included in photo printers.

CompactFlash cards are currently available up to 3GB and provide the best storage solution for the new multi-mega-pixel cameras, Pocket PCs and other devices.

The CF+ and CompactFlash Standard ensures that today's and tomorrow's digital cameras will be compatible with even higher capacity CF cards, as they become available. The CFA has a certification program that ensures the compliance of all CompactFlash cards with the CompactFlash Specification. Products that have passed the certification program carry the CF™ logo. Compatibility and interchangeability of all CompactFlash products have been major advantages for CompactFlash. CompactFlash is the only small form factor data storage card that provides product compatibility certification ensuring users that the CompactFlash cards they buy today and in the future are all interchangeable and compatible.

In addition to CompactFlash data storage cards, there are CF cards that provide I/O capability (serial, Ethernet, fax/modem, VGA, bar code readers, etc.) and the IBM Microdrive, a disk drive in a CF Type II package.

The CompactFlash storage card is an ultra-small, removable data storage system first introduced in 1994. CompactFlash cards meet all PCMCIA standards.

New ultra small CompactFlash readers combined with a CompactFlash card provide the smallest, lowest cost and most flexible solution for moving data between PCs. To reduce the cost even further the same CompactFlash card used in a digital camera can be used in these readers. There is also a newly introduced CompactFlash card that has a miniature USB connection on the end of the card. This creates the smallest USB flash drive available today.

A CompactFlash card can be easily removed from a camera, handheld PC, Pocket PC, or other host system and slipped into a low cost, high transfer rate, reader/writer to move files instantaneously to a desktop PC. Files can be transferred to a notebook computer the same way or a low cost adapter is available to allow a CF card to be inserted directly into a PCMCIA card slot.

CompactFlash cards are compatible with Windows95, Windows98, Windows 2000, WindowsME, WindowsXP, OS X, Linux and many other operating systems. For example, Windows & OS X automatically recognize a CF card as an additional disk drive and assign a drive letter to the card. All files on the CF card are then easily accessible by any application or utility software.

The CFA was founded by twelve companies in October 1995 and now has over 245 member companies. The CompactFlash Association is a non-profit, mutual-benefit corporation that promotes adoption of CompactFlash as a worldwide, ultra-small, removable data storage card standard for capturing and transporting digital data, audio and images.

The latest CompactFlash and CF+ Specification Version 1.4 incorporates I/O functions (fax/modem, VGA, Ethernet, GSM, serial, bar code reader, etc.) into the CF form factor.

The CFA, which makes the CompactFlash, CFA logo and CF logo trademarks available royalty-free to member companies, is headquartered in Palo Alto, CA.

The CF Specification is available to download free from the CFA web site at http://www.compactflash.org

CF logo for CompactFlash® compatibility certification

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