












Forensic workstation – supported media/formats

<i>Media format</i>	<i>Reading the media</i>	<i>Write protect</i>	<i>Plan B – issues and risks</i>
5.25" floppy disk	No capacity to read this format		Look to use specialist 3rd party service
3.5" floppy disk	USB external reader 	Slide the tab to reveal the hole – the disk is now write protected 	Modern USB readers are not as robust as the original drives. Internal floppy drives (purchased) could be installed in the workstation Purchase a back-up USB reader as production will continue to decline
Zip drives	USB Zip250 drive 	In Windows Explorer, right click the drive icon and select Protect	Drive and disks feel quite robust Still possible to buy second-hand drives and/or internal drives for installing into workstation on eBay
CD-R DVD-R	Internal CD/DVD drive 	N/A – once burnt the files on the disk cannot be modified	Longevity of the media is often over-stated, look to remove the files as soon as possible External USB CD/DVD drive (purchased)
CD-RW DVD-RW		Disk can be burnt-to in multiple sessions	

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IDE hard drive	IDE/SATA Drive Adapter 	CRU ComboDock v5.5 	Adopted as a standard in 1990 and common in PCs until c2005
SATA hard drive			Introduced in 2003 and now widely used in PCs (3.5" versions) and laptops (2.5")
USB drives	Internal and external USB drive readers 	Use CRU Media WriteBlocker 	Whilst USB continues to evolve, backward compatibility is still a key feature. Check this is still the case with USB4
SD card Mico SD M2 MS XD CF	Multi-card reader 	SD cards Slide the tab down – it is now write protected CRU Media WriteBlocker can accept SD, MS and Compact Flash media  	Second multi-card reader (purchased) Devices are widely available online