

# **PDBLOCK LITE**

Physical Drive write BLOCKer (Lite)

Version 1.01  
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Digital Intelligence, Inc

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## Features

PDBLOCK (**Physical Drive Write BLOCKer**) is a utility to software write protect all the hard disks on a system. Once loaded PDBLOCK will block all write requests to a system's hard disks. Unlike other write blockers, PDBLOCK will prevent any writes to a system's hard disks made via the new MS/IBM Interrupt 13 Extensions (not just the older Interrupt 13 calls). Also, unlike other write blockers, PDBLOCK is effective on hard drives larger than 8.4 Gb, effective when running under DOS versions 7.1 and greater, and will protect FAT32(x) partitions.

## Usage

PDBLOCK is designed to be loaded from the AUTOEXEC.BAT file of a forensic boot floppy. PDBLOCK may also be loaded manually from the DOS prompt. When PDBLOCK is first loaded, write protection will be automatically enabled. Each time PDBLOCK is executed thereafter, the write protection will be toggled on/off (a status message will be displayed).

## Notes

PDBLOCK will protect any drive accessed from your system via Interrupt 13 or the MS/IBM Interrupt 13 Extensions. System BIOS's typically provide this capability for all attached IDE or EIDE devices. In addition, most SCSI adapters offer the ability to support attached devices via Interrupt 13 as well.

PDBLOCK is NOT DESIGNED to provide write protection while the Windows GUI (Graphical User Interface) is loaded. The Windows GUI often communicates with the system hard drives directly via optimized device drivers. These device drivers may circumvent the system BIOS (Int13/Int13x) and communicate with the controllers using ATAPI (IDE) or ASPI (SCSI) command sets. PDBLOCK was not designed to intercept this type of communication.

Similarly, PDBLOCK WILL NOT provide write protection for individual programs that directly access the hard disk controllers (i.e. using ATAPI or ASPI command sets). It should be noted, however, that these programs are not frequently encountered and may include sophisticated backup/imaging programs or manufacturer's disk diagnostics.