Adding a Second Hard Drive

Older IDE (Integrated Drive Electronics) hard drives need to be configured as a master/slave relationship by setting “jumpers” on the hard drive. The drives can then be connected in tandem by a single ribbon cable.

Most modern PCs now have SATA hard drives that do not need a master/slave configuration. Providing you have a Windows drive installed, your PC will automatically recognize an additional drive as secondary:

1. Turn off your PC, open up the case and find the existing hard drive – located in a cage
2. Install an additional SATA drive in the cage, then follow the cable of the first drive to identify where it plugs into the motherboard – usually a connector marked “SATA”
3. Plug your new drive’s SATA cable into an adjacent SATA connector on the motherboard, and plug the other end into the new SATA drive itself
4. Attach a power cable from the PC’s power unit to the SATA drive, then close the case and turn on your PC
5. Right-click the Start button and choose Disk Management to see an “Initialize Disk” dialog appear
6. Click OK to initialize the new hard drive, then back in Disk Management, right-click on the new drive and choose New Simple Volume from the context menu
7. Repeatedly click Next in the “New Simple Volume Wizard” to format the drive and allocate it a drive letter...continuing