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The Risks of Using Portable Devices – Part 1

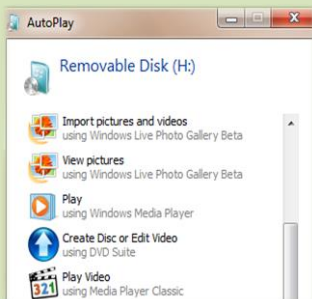
Portable devices like jump drives, personal audio players, and tablets give users convenient access to business and personal data on the go. As their use increases, however, so do the associated risks. The properties that make these devices portable and enable them to have on-the-fly connection to various networks and hosts also make them vulnerable to losses of physical control and network security breaches. Using portable devices can increase the risk of data loss (when a physical device is lost), data exposure (when sensitive data is exposed to the public or a third party without consent due to theft), and increased exposure to network-based attacks to and from any system the device is connected to (both directly and via networks over the



About Portable Devices

There are many types of portable devices, and new products arriving on the market such as simple media devices (jump drives, media cards, CDs, DVDs, and music players without Wi-Fi capability) and smart media devices that can transfer data with a wired or wireless connection (tablets, smart phones, gaming devices, music players with Wi-Fi capabilities, and readers). These devices are generally used to access email, surf the web, and download applications, music, and books.

What Are the Risks?



Using simple storage media may seem innocuous, but the potential of causing many problems to a user or an organization is very high. TechAdvisory.org reports that 25 percent of malware (malicious programs) is spread today through USB devices. These devices (such as jump drive or music player) plugged into the USB port of your PC may contain malware that you copy unknowingly or gets launched automatically by the Autorun or Autoplay feature of your PC.

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REFERENCE(S): <http://www.us-cert.gov/>

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