DMDE 3.0

DM Disk Editor and Data Recovery Software

User Manual

Revision of the Manual 2015-10-21

Contents

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About DMDE 3.0 Help

The most recent documentation may be found on the software sites.

Reading the manual is recommended when working with the program.

A number of parameters may be set within the software which understanding requires some knowledge about file systems and disks, and their discussion is beyond the scope of this guide. If the role of such parameters is not clear, it is recommended to keep the default.

In the manual the software interface items and keyboard shortcuts are **framed**, text to input or dial and file names are highlighted in `monospace green font`.

> In order to open CHM file in Windows you should copy it to a local disk and unblock the file (right-click menu - Properties - Unblock).

Context Sensitive Help

Context sensitive help can be called from the most dialog boxes by pressing **F1** / **Shift+F1** / **Shift+F11** keys or button **Help**. Supported in Linux and Windows only.

Help is available in the form of a set of HTML files under both Linux and Windows. CHM files are supported under Windows.

> By default CHM files are used under Windows. To use HTML files remove CHM files and copy directory `man_en` to the software directory or other `man` directories to the directory `locals`. HTML files are opened using default system browser.
>
> In Linux command `xdg-open` is used to call the default application for HTML files. You may use another command using parameter `shellopen=`.

About DMDE

About DMDE

DMDE 3.0 (DM Disk Editor and Data Recovery Software)

http://dmde.com/ http://softdm.com/

Search, edit, and recover data on disks.

- Free Edition: most of features, file recovery from the current panel
- Paid Editions: data recovery without the limitation
- Professional Edition: additional features and rights, including rights to provide paid data recovery
- GUI, Console versions for Windows 98/..XP/..7/..10, console versions for DOS, Linux
- Portable run without installation
- File systems supported: NTFS/NTFS5, FAT12/16, FAT32, exFAT, Ext2/3/4 (browse, view files and system structures, data recovery)
- Thorough FS and RAW search and data recovery in complex cases
- Simple partition manager for partitioning express diagnostic of partitions and to quickly find and restore accidentally removed or lost partitions
- Disk images (creation and writing images back to disk), disk cloning include I/O error handling, reverse copy, and other features
- Disk editor compatible with the most recent Windows versions to view, edit, and navigate through different disk structures (including built-in and custom templates)
- RAID constructor to virtually reconstruct RAID supporting RAID-0, RAID-1, RAID-4, RAID-5, RAID-6, delayed parity, custom striping, JBOD/spanned disks
- NTFS tools to work bypassing NTFS driver (copy, delete file, create, repair directory)
- Support for national names, large disks, large files, large sectors, NTFS compression, and other features

Acknowledgement

Thank all users for comments, bug and test reports, suggestions, payments, advertising and publicity.

Special thanks to:
Igor (jsfhd), Alex (box2134), Konstantin Volkov, Leonid Arkadjev, Antech, Yatagan, 9285, okzo, Nirvanowiec, Migol21, gsm_virus, BIGOLSEN, Stepan Martinek, lordo4

File Descriptions

Executable

dmde.exe or **dmde** - the program

Localization

***.tbl** - code page tables
***.lng** - language files

Documentation

eula*.txt - license agreement (EULA) files
versions.txt - information about some version changes
readme*.txt - readme files
dmde*.chm - help files in Windows CHM format
man*/* - help files in HTML format

Other files

dev9x.dll, **dev32.dll** - drivers to run under Windows 9x/ME
dmde*.ini - program settings files
cwsdpmi.exe - DOS Extender to run 32-bit DOS apps (Copyright © 2010 CW Sandmann, not a component of DMDE product)

DMDE Editions

Actual information is available on the software site (compare editions, buy online).

Free Edition has all base features and recovers up to 4000 files from the current panel only.

Paid editions recover files and directories without the limitation.

Professional Edition has additional features and grants extended rights to provide data recovery services:

- Portable use on different computers
- One-time activation on client computers (including remote use)
- Native 64-bit versions (access more than 2GB RAM, Windows and Linux only)
- Data recovery reports (include logs and file checksums)
- Using logs when copying a disk (resume copying, several passes)
- Customizable I/O handler script
- Recovery of NTFS alternate data streams
- DMA access under DOS (for ATA interface)

To use all proffesional features you should download the licensed copy from your personal site section (restore login). In other cases you may just enter an actual license key into the basic version.

Installation and Run

Attention! If in doubt about the physical health of the disc it is recommended to appeal to specialists. Further work with the disk (including starting up) may worsen the problem or cause complete inability to recover data. If device size is detected incorrectly.

Attention! Do not load operating system, install or run the program on a partition where lost or damaged data is located (data to recovery), otherwise it may be erased irrevocably.
To prevent writing to the problem disk it is highly recommended to load the system from the removable media (LiveCD/USB, bootable DOS disk, etc.).

To install and run the program just extract entire software package into a single directory (may be on removable media) and run **`dmde.exe`** or **`dmde`** depending on a version. You need Aministrator/Superuser priveleges to access devices in Windows NT+, Linux. To run the software without Adminstrator rights add the parameter **`notadmin=1`** to the file **`dmde.ini`**. **To uninstall** the software just remove the extracted files and directories.

Operating Systems

Windows 98/ME

Attention! Without special patches Windows 9x/ME handles 128GB and larger drives incorrectly.
To avoid the problem reload computer in MS-DOS mode and use DMDE for DOS to access such drives via BIOS or ATA-interface or load another OS.

Windows 2K/XP

To use the program you should login as Administrator.
Attention! To work with 128GB and larger drives you need Windows 2K SP4 with LBA48 support manually switched on in the registers or Windows XP SP2 (LBA48 is switched on by default).

Windows Vista/7/higher

To run the program as Administrator right-click the program icon and use the corresponding command in the context menu or confirm UAC elevation request.
Attention! To work with drives larger than 2TB the most recent versions of controller drivers must be installed.

Linux

At first go to the Root Terminal or run Terminal emulator (Konsole, Gnome-terminal, etc.). Go to the software directory and type **`./dmde`**. You should run the software as a superuser to access devices. Please, refer to your operating system documentation for this information (e.g., run **`sudo ./dmde`** in Ubuntu, go to root with **`su`** command in Debian at first, etc.). You may also need to set execution permission for the file **`dmde`** (type **`chmod 755 ./dmde`**). To run 32-bit software versions on 64-bit operating systems you may have to install additional 32-bit shared libraries (e.g., run **`sudo apt-get install libc6-i386`** in Ubuntu to install **`libc6-i386`** package).

DOS

You may use DMDE on a regular partition supported by DOS or use DOS bootable disk. This may be helpful when there are problems using specific disk. SATA disks must be switched to IDE-compatible mode in BIOS settings for direct ATA-access. SCSI, USB, and other devices may be accessed via special DOS drivers or using BIOS functions if

they are supported.

Some files for creating DOS boot disks are available on the software site in the section Additional Downloads.

Bootable Floppy

To create bootable floppy download and unpack **FDD image**. You may use the function Copy Sectors to write the image to a floppy disk. Use the image as a source file and fdd as a destination device. ISO images for bootable CD may also be created on the base of boot FDD images with the help of different software.

DOS Bootable Disk

Loading from the specific disk must be supported by BIOS (see BIOS boot menu). To create bootable USB/HDD you need a freshly formatted primary FAT16/FAT32 partition on the disk. Non-standard disks/partitions are not supported (non-MBR, 3TB+, etc.). You may probably need to zero the disk to properly create compatible primary FAT partition using standard OS means.

1. Download the **FreeDOS Package** and unpack files into the root of the FAT partition.
2. Open the disk as physical device in DMDE and use the command **Write Boot Sectors...** in the Partitions menu to make the device bootable (specify the location of unpacked files as a source of boot sectors). Apply changes and close DMDE.
3. Download DMDE for DOS and unpack into the FAT partition.

System Requirements

Common Requirements

- Drives: without significant hardware/firmware problems
  Attention! If there are physical problems (extraneous sounds, error messages, slow performance, etc.) it is recommended to appeal to specialists
- CPU: Intel compatible (i486 and higher)
- To save/use results, reports, and settings a valid partition is required which is supported by the operating system (in particular, FAT partition is required to work in DOS/Win9x/ME)

If Device Size Is Detected Incorrectly

This must be resolved before any further work. Some issues are quite simple - see guide from external source. Some issues are below:

- **Capacity Limitation Jumper** is misplaced (device size is limited to **32GB**)
- **HPA** is erroneously applyed. Device size usually becomes **1TB less** or similar (typical to some GYGABYTE motherboards). Try software: HDD Capacity Restore Tool (Windows), `hdparm` (Linux), HDAT2, MHDD, Victoria (DOS)
- No large drive support on **OS** - see below
- **Incorrect drivers** for SATA/USB controller (no correct **3TB+** support). Device is displayed tipically **2.2TB less**. Update drivers
- **USB enclosure** / another adapter has no correct **3TB+** support. Change adapter or attach device directly

Windows 2K+ (2K/XP/Vista/7/higher)

- Recommended: Windows XP + SP2 and higher
- 32-bit versions work in both 32-bit and 64-bit Windows
- Administrator privileges
- Drives: supported by OS
  Attention! To work with drives larger than 2TB under Windows Vista/7/higher the most recent versions of controller drivers must be installed. To work with 128GB and larger drives under Windows 2K/XP certain ServicePacks must be installed and LBA48 support must be switched on in the system registers. Windows 2K/XP does not support drives larger than 2TB.

Windows 98/ME

- Drives: supported by OS
  Attention! Windows 9x/ME handles 128GB and larger drives incorrectly unless special patches are installed. You may reload computer in MS-DOS mode and use DOS version to access drives via BIOS or ATA-interface

DOS

- OS: MS-DOS 5.0+ compatible
- Drives: supported by BIOS or supported by DOS (using ASPI drivers) or supporting ATA-interface (IDE or SATA). SATA disks must be switched to IDE-compatible mode in BIOS settings for direct ATA-access
- DOS Extender (file CWSDPMI.EXE © 2000 CW Sandmann in the software directory is enough)
- At least 200 KB of low memory free
- At least 64 MB of extended memory
- For extended name duplicates handling during data recovery long name driver is required (e.g., DOSLFN.COM © Haftman software)
- If you wish to use a mouse then mouse driver for DOS is required

Linux

- OS: Latest Linux distributions with **`libc`** library
- 32-bit shared libraries to run 32-bit versions on 64-bit Linux (e.g. **`libc6-i386`** package)
- Drives: supported by OS
- Superuser rights
- Root terminal or terminal emulator (xterm, Konsole, Gnome-Terminal, etc.)
- utf-8 locale support

Activation

Attention! After purchasing you should obtain a licensed copy. To get all Professional features you should get the software in your personal section. In other cases you may just enter your license key into the existing version. Please adhere to license terms to avoid license blocking and revoking. You may get an updated key as well as information about blocking in your personal section (restore login).

You should activate the licensed copy when first run on a new/modified hardware or after entering a license key.

Online Activation

It is by using the button **Online Activation** (Internet access is necessary, not available in DOS). Upon a successful connection to a server the activation code will be saved to dmde.ini.

Offline Activation

If Online activation is not available you may get and enter activation code.
1. Run the software on a computer where it will be used. Click **Offline Activation** and save the file **`dmdeinst.dat`** (or write out your **Prod.ID** and **Inst.ID**).
2. Open the activation site http://activate1.dmde.com/ or http://activate2.softdm.com/ from any location. Upload the file **`dmdeinst.dat`** (or enter your **Prod.ID** and **Inst.ID**). An activation code will be generated for you.
3. Enter your activation code to complete Offline Activation.

Activation Types (Professional Edition)

1. Local Activation

Local Activation associates the software use with a specific computer: select the item **Local Activation** and use Online or Offline Activation.

2. Portable Activation (Portable Use)

Portable Activation associates the software use with a removable USB flash drive that allow using on different computers without Internet access. Windows (2K and higher) & Linux only.

Initial Association with a Device

1. Select **Portable Activation** (click it or use **Space bar**) and specify the removable device for association. The device must have correct serial number (**12 or more digits and capital Latin letters**).
2. Use Online or Offline Activation to complete the association (will be stored to dmde.ini).

Further Use on Different Computers

Attach the device to a computer, run the software, and select the device if necessary.

3. One-time Activation

It is designed to one-time run the software on a client computer when it is not possible to use portable activation (e.g. for a remote use).

Download the basic software version (without Professional features) and enter special license key (Client Edition) and one-time password which are issued in the personal section (restore login) and then activate Online or Offline.

Languages/Localizations

Dialog Box "Select Language"

Apply Codepages. If the option is checked then ANSI and OEM code pages from the selected localization file are used.

Translit. Transliterate interface if there are problems displaying national symbols.

Code Pages - Interface and Data Recovery

ANSI code page is used in DMDE interface under Windows and Linux. **OEM code page** is used in DMDE interface under DOS. Symbols outside the selected interface codepage are transliterated or substituted.

OEM code page is used also when read short names (8.3 format) from FAT volumes in all DMDE versions. DMDE for DOS uses **OEM code page** for file name recovery also. DMDE for Windows and for Linux uses Unicode (if it is supported by OS) during recovery regardless of the selected code page.

By default OS code pages are used (if applicable). Code pages from Ini-file (if defined) override them. Code pages from the selected lng-file (`*.lng`) override everything if **Apply Codepages** option is checked in the dialog box **"Select Language"**. Lng-file string `107` is for ANSI, lng-file string `108` is for OEM codepage.

INI-file settings

usecodepage= ANSI code page
oemcodepage= OEM code page
translitenable= (`Translit`)
viewtranslit= (`Translit`)

Settings

Settings are stored in the file **`dmde.ini`** in the software directory. See the file for the parameter descriptions.

Device I/O Parameters can be changed at runtime.

Known Issues and Other Limitations

Data Recovery

- DOS, Win9x/ME: unicode symbols in file names outside the selected code page are replaced with "_" or transliterated according to the loaded translit tables
- DOS, Win9x/ME or FAT: unable to recover file greater then 4GB as a single file due to a FAT limitation
- NTFS alternate streams can be recovered to NTFS volumes only
- One file hard link per NTFS directory is recoverable
- One alt. stream hard link per NTFS file is recoverable
- NTFS symbolic links are not supported
- NTFS encrypted files are not supported
- NTFS permissions and owners are not supported
- Ext2/Ext3/Ext4 permissions and owners are not supported
- Win9x/ME: drives greater then 128GB are not handled correctly without special patches applied to Windows drivers
- Maximum path length supported: 259 characters for DOS, 4096 for Windows, Linux
- Maximum path length supported by DOS: 79 or 127 characters (for DOS-names) depending on DOS version.
- Subdirectory depth is up to 1024 (can be increased using **`maxrecoverdepth=`** parameter)
- If name substitution is used under DOS then name handling (such as auto renaming) is not supported

NTFS write support

- Journal is not supported
- SECURITY INFORMATION is not supported on creation (to access files and directories it is necessary to set permissions using OS features)
- OBJECTID is not supported
- Additional creation of DOS-compatible names is not supported
- Compressed files are not supported
- Alternate data streams are not supported
- To allocate/append a file a contiguous free space is required

Other

- The software may work within the available RAM. 32-bit versions may use up to 2GB of RAM only (corresponds to the support of ~10 million files)
- Up to 2K items in the list of Devices
- Up to 400 volumes in the window Partitions
- Up to 16K custom data rotation items (**striping**) when constructing Custom RAID
- Up to 2K visible items per section for Full Scan (**`showvolumesnum=`** parameter)
- Up to 16 million MFT fragments of NTFS for Full Scan (**`ntfsmaxmftruns=`** parameter)
- Maximum search depth for File Panel Search is up to 1K directories
- Keyboard and mouse input is limited in Linux (keyboard shortcuts and national input may not be supported)

Updates, License Downloads

Updates are performed in the same way as a first installation.

License owners may download licensed software copies from the personal site section. To restore personal entrance address fill out the form on-line:
http://dmde.com/request.html

Work with program

Find and Open Volume

To browse, view, edit, and recover files and directories you should find and open a volume containing data. Use the following methods depending on the damage.

1. If a volume is fully available by a letter (**C:**, **D:**, ...), you may open it via the dialog box Select Drive by selecting the options **Logical Disks / Volumes / DOS Services**. This method is suitable to recover deleted files on healthy volumes. If it is not possible to open the volume and correctly recover files then try the next method.

2. Select a physical device containing the volume (Select drive – **Physical Devices**, or under DOS – **ATA Interface** or **BIOS Services**). Then select and open the volume in the dialog box Partitions. If it is not possible to open the volume in such a way or data is still not properly recoverable try using the next method for the most complicated cases.

3. Run Full Scan and open one of the found volume variants. Read the section Full Scan for more efficient recovery in this case.

Use the command **Open volume parameters** in the context menu to manually change some parameters before opening the volume.

If the initial storage is a RAID you probably need to Construct RAID instead of opening single physical device.

Also, the volume may be opened from the Editor Window when view the volume boot sector or boot sector copy in a Boot sector mode.

Data Recovery

Attention! If files are recovered incorrectly or there are other problems make sure you are using a legal software copy.

Attention! Do not recover to the same partition which contains source data to recover. It is highly recommended to recover data to another physical device. You may recover to another partition of the same device only if you are sure that source and destination partitions don't overlap and device has no physical problems. Do not load system or run program from the partition where data to recover is located.

Before data recovery you should find and open volume. The recovery results depend on results of the volume search and which volume is opened.

To recover all found files (including lost and removed files and NTFS altstreams) you should open virtual directory **`[All Found + Reconstruction]`** in the File Panel. This is also required for auto unmarking items during group recovery.

Free Edition supports recovery of up to 4000 files from the current panel only.

Dialog Box "Recover"

Button "Size"

Calculate size of the data to recover. Global indicator of recovery process is working if the size is calculated. You should not calculate the size to avoid unnecessary device load on devices with bad sectors.

Button "List"

Save list of files selected for recovery to a file.

"Deleted" files

Recover files marked as "deleted" (see File Panel). If the option is not selected "deleted" files won't be recovered regardless the selection state.

Checkbox "Include Found"

Recover files marked as "found" (see File Panel). If the option is not checked "found" files won't be recovered regardless the selection state.

Checkbox "Include NTFS altstreams" (Professional Edition only)

Recover NTFS alternate data streams (Alt. stream name and file name are separated by a colon, i.e. **`FileName:StreamName`**).

Create report (Professional Edition only)

Save recovery report to a file. List files and directories, log file I/O errors, calculate checksums CRC32, MD5, SHA1.

File filter

Define name masks (semicolon separated) to recover matching files only. Wildcards "**`*`**" and "**`?`**" may be used. Exclusion masks may be also defined by prepending a backslash "**`\`**". Masks at the beginning have a priority. E.g. the name **`abc.tmp`** matches **`a*;\*.tmp`** and does not match **`\*.tmp;a*`**.

File size limits

Filter files by size. Use **`0`** (zero) as a second value if you wish to set a lower limit only.

Additional Issues

Checkbox "Unicode names"

The option is set if there is Unicode support in OS, otherwise symbols outside the selected code page must be transliterated or substituted (see Locales). Unavailable in DOS.

Recover to a FAT formatted volume, checkbox "Split large files"

FAT volumes do not support files greater than 4GB (or sometimes 2GB). Larger files may be split during recovery upon a request if OS properly reports (which is not always the case) or if the option **Split large files** is used (preferable). Later you may merge file parts on another disk by using the system utility `copy /b part1 + part2 + part3 result`, for example. Pure DOS supports only FAT volumes.

File names in DOS, checkbox "Substitute names"

Without special drivers long files names are not supported under DOS. Option **Substitute names** allows name substitution during recovery. File `LRENAME.BAT` is being created in the destination folder for backward renaming. To restore original file names load OS Windows, go to the destination folder and execute the file `LRENAME.BAT`. An appropriate OEM code page must be selected when working in DOS in order to restore national symbols correctly. Unicode symbols outside the selected code page will be transliterated or substituted.

You may add the parameter `substnamesutf8=1` or use the option **utf-8** to create `LRENAME.BAT` in the utf-8 format fully supporting Unicode regardless the selected code page. Utf-8 format is supported in Windows 7 and higher.

Paths longer than 259 symbols under Windows NT+

In order to recover paths which are longer than 259 symbols you should manually prepend the destination directory name with a prefix `\\?\`, e.g.: `\\?\C:\`. Such long paths may be inaccessible for standard programs such as Explorer ("My Computer").

Name Duplicate Handling

During recovery there may be name duplicates due to finding different versions of the same file, different links to the same file, or due to erroneous merging of directories.

If a file or directory with the same name is being recovered you are prompted to choose how to handle the duplicates. It is possible to rename the object manually by entering name or to choose auto renaming or skipping all subsequent objects. It is also possible to merge directories with same names.

There is a threshold number of renaming for a single object after which there will be a second request for a desired action when the threshold is exceeded. Parameters `maxfilerenames=` and `maxdirrenames=` are used as threshold numbers by default.

Determining name duplicates is working on the base of destination file system. Name handling is not working if **name substitution** is used under DOS.

Partition Management

A tool to view, search, and open volumes, as well as to manage partitions basically on MBR and GPT-style disks. Other styles (e.g., hybrid, dynamic) are unsupported whilst partitions may be shown as found. Partition management includes removing and undeleting of removed and lost partitions, restoring boot sectors from their copies and other tools. Make sure to read the warning before use.

Marking the checkbox **found** causes express-search and displaying of lost and removed partitions. For more complex and deeper search use Full Scan. Volumes opened after the Full Scan are added to the list of found partitions and thus may be managed (e.g. may be undeleted if possible).

To prevent express search of partitions unmark the box **Show partitions** when open a device or construct a RAID.

Info mode checkboxes:

- **found**: display found partitions
- **tables**: display AMBR and GPT partition tables
- **GiB**: display sizes in binary units
- **detailed**: display multiple lines per partition in accordance with the source of information

(A) - bootable (active) partition status (**Partition** column).

Indicators indicate the presence of structures:

- **T** – partition table
- **E** – table entry
- **B** – volume boot sector
- **C** – boot sector/GPT copy
- **F** – basic FS structures (e.g., first MFT file record for NTFS)
- **f** – MFTMirr for NTFS
- **x** – structure is absent or damaged
- (indicator is absent) – structure is not tested (however it may present). E.g. **F** indicator may be disclosed only after volume opening.

Found errors are colored in red. For incorrect/non-standard partitioning correct displaying is not guaranteed.

Dialog Box "Partitions" · Commands

Attention! Partitioning modification may cause impossibility to boot from the disk or inaccessibility of some partitions after applying. Never modify partitioning of your boot or system disk. Use alternative boot disk or connect your disk as second to another computer. Run the software from the device which won't be modified and save current partitioning to a file on a device which won't be modified. After applying restart the computer or reconnect pluggable device for changes to take effect. Cancel the **chkdsk** utility (by pressing any key) if it runs automatically at startup as it may cause non-recoverable damage of the data.

Use the **Menu** button to view the operations available for the selected partition.

Partitioning changes are pending until you push the button **Apply** or use menu command Apply Partitioning. See also Applying Changes for details.

Open Volume

Open volume to view and recover files.

Open Volume Parameters

View and manually edit volume parameters before actually open volume.

Show Volume Letters

Display volume letters assigned by OS.

Full Scan within the Partition

Full Scan

Create Image/Clone

Call the dialog box Copy Sectors to create partition image or clone the partition.

Insert the Partition (Undelete)

Insert lost or removed volume into the partition table. Invalid partitions may prevent insertion so they must be removed before insertion. Completely damaged partitioning may be resetted using the command Toggle MBR Signature On/Off applied to the topmost item. You should add partitions from the beginning to the end of the disk.

Remove the Partition

Remove the existing partition or a partition table. Some partitioning errors may be fixed by removing and inserting the partition.

Create RAW Partition

Create unformatted (RAW) partition within the unallocated space. If there are no partitioning errors it is highly recommended to use only standard system tools for creating and removing partitions.

Restore Boot Sector from the Copy

Replace damaged boot sector with a backup copy.

Toggle Bootable (Active) Partition Status

Set or reset active **(A)** status of a bootable partition.

Toggle MBR/Boot Signature On/Off (MBR On/Off)

Set or reset boot sector signature (`0xAA55`).

Reset GPT+MBR Signatures (GPT Off)

Reset boot sector signature (`0xAA55`) and signatures of GPT tables (`EFI PART`).

Set GPT+MBR Signatures (GPT On)

Set GPT and boot signatures. Available only on GPT disks after resetting.

Write Boot Sectors

Make DOS bootable disk.

Undo Action

Undo the last action.

Redo Action

Redo the last undone action.

Undo Partitioning Changes

Undo all partitioing changes.

Reset All Changes

Reset all unapplied changes.

Load from File

Load disk partitioning or rollback data from a file. See Changes for details.

Save Current Partitioning to File

Save current partitioning to a file for a backup purposes. Available only if the device is partitioned and there are no unapplied changes.

Apply Partitioning

Write changes to the disk. See Applying Changes for details.

Full Scan

Comprehensive search method allows you to find and virtually rebuild the directory structure of a damaged file system or to find lost files of known types by signatures if a file system can not be used.

If a file system is not seriously damaged then volumes may be opened before the scan completes. In the most complex cases different volume variants may be given. You should select and **Open volume**, reconstruct file system and recover files to estimate the quality of a variant. If the selected volume variant does not contain necessary files or files are recovered incorrectly you should continue the search or try another variant. There are indicators which allow preliminary estimating the quality of a variant (details are below). If data was moved (due to partition move/split/merge/resize operation) then some files may be recovered correctly from one volume variant, and others from another one, despite that files are visible on both volume variants.

It is recommended to scan selected area of a physical device (including old and new location of the volume if it was moved) rather than scanning a logical disk. The software may read beyond the selected area if it is necessary.

Open volume	Open volume selected in the list.
Save...	Save search log to a file.
Load...	Load search log from a file (to continue previous search or to use previous search results).
Start/Stop	Start/stop scan. If the scan area is not changed the scan will continue from the last point.
Scan range	Select the area to scan. Is is possible to select one of the partitions or any drive extent.
Menu	Besides, allows changing volume sorting order.

The special search method allows detecting volumes without prior complete scan of the selected area. Scan is not continuous but discrete with increasing of the sampling frequency. Volumes with the most number of files are being found first.

NTFS, exFAT, ext2/3/4

The columns **%** and **Check** allow estimating data recovery quality of a found volume variant (the percentage and number of successful reference matchings).

Min. Size is the minimum size containing all files in the best volume FS blocks.

FAT

The column **Indicators** shows the absence (damage) ("-") or presence ("+") of the corresponding FS structures (**B** - boot sector/copy, **F** - FAT table/copy, **R** - root directory).

The column **Check** shows the number of found directories corresponding to the volume variant.

RAW File Search

File signatures are used to find lost files if FS cannot be used. Additionally file signatures are used as reference points to calculate NTFS and exFAT volumes.

Device Selection

Select disk for further work.

If device size is detected incorrectly, refer to System Requirements issues.

Options

Physical Devices / Interfaces / Logical disks and DOS Services

Preferable access type depends on the problem (e.g. for data recovery see volume opening).

DOS Options

ATA Interface	Use direct device access (for IDE and SATA devices in IDE mode). The preferable way to access devices with bad sectors
BIOS Services	Use BIOS functions to access devices
DOS Services	Use DOS functions to access logical disks
DOS ASPI	Access to SCSI, USB, and other devices via ASPI drivers (if any)

Other

Disk Images: click or **Enter** the topmost list item to add new image for further work.

RAID option forwards to RAID constructor.

Show partitions option causes express searching and displaying partitions just after opening device.

Parameters button allows manually setting device I/O parameters.

Devices in Linux

If some specific devices are not listed you may use the option **Disk Images** and manually enter required device path, e.g. **`/dev/mmcblk0`** or **`/dev/mapper/truecrypt1`**.

Device I/O Parameters

Interface

A way to access disk/volume (may be set when selecting device).

OS Windows

IO FILE	Use ReadFile/WriteFile functions to access device
IO SCSI	Use SCSI driver (usually lower level driver than IO FILE)
Overlapped	Use overlapped I/O (does not affect I/O, not recommended).

DOS

ATA Interface (direct access, recommended for devices with damages)

ATA Interface	For HDD/SSD
ATAPI Interface	For CD/DVD
use DMA	Use faster DMA access for ATA (Professional Edition only)
use LBA48	To access more than 128 GiB
raw CD access	To access non-digital CD

BIOS Services

Old BIOS Service	CHS access up to 8.4GB
Ext BIOS Service	LBA access

DOS Services

DOS Int 25/26	DOS functions
Win9x-FAT32 Calls	New DOS functions
MSCDEX Services	For CD/DVD

I/O Errors

A way to handle I/O errors.

Skip I/O Errors. If an error occurs and the option is checked then I/O operation continues after a certain number of **auto retries**. Otherwise operation stops after a number of **auto retries** until user make a choice in device I/O dialog box.

Do not wait if device is not ready. If the option is checked then I/O operation continues even if device is not ready. Otherwise the user reaction is required (device I/O dialog box).

always: apply to future operations.
now: apply to current operation.

Auto retries number on CRC Error. A number of additional I/O retries number before entering standby mode for user reaction or continuing the operation.

> Zero value (**0**) stands for no additional retries, herewith the rest sectors of the block after the error will not be read to the **I/O buffer**.
>
> If the value is non-zero then sectors are being reread one by one until error sector encounters. The error sector is being read until the number of auto retries is reached or the sector is read succesfully.
>
> Increasing of retries number increases the percent of data successfully read but decreases device lifetime due to heavy load.

Auto retries number on Seek Error. The same for errors of the type "sector is not found".

> Input error is assumed to be a seek error if I/O buffer contents is not changed after I/O (or it is filled with zeroes). Usually seek errors

significantly slow down I/O and they are not recoverable after a number of retries.

Fill bad sectors (hex). 4-byte hexadecimal value to fill sector if error detected (optional).

Jump over sectors after error. A number of sectors to skip after a nonrecoverable error encounters.

Skipped sectors will be filled with a **Filler** value. If there are areas of sequential bad sectors then skipping significantly reduces loading device. Herewith the percent of the data succesfully read will decrease if there are individual bad sectors.

Read back after jump. Reading skipped sectors backward until bad sector encounters.

The option is unavailable if the number of sectors to skip is too big. The feature improves data recovery quality when jump over bad sectors.

Skipped sector filler (hex). 4-byte hexadecimal value to fill sectors skipped when jump over.

Additional Parameters

I/O buffer size in sectors. The maximum number of sectors transferred per I/O operation.

Timeout, msec. Time in milliseconds to wait for a device responce (DOS **ATA Interface** only).

SCSI Timeout, s. Timeout for SCSI driver I/O (Windows **IO SCSI** interface only).

ATA software reset if busy. Perform ATA soft reset if device is busy after **timeout** (DOS **ATA interface** only).

ATA software reset timeout, ms. Time to wait for a device readiness after ATA soft reset (DOS **ATA interface** only).

Script... Set custom Device I/O Handler (Professional Edition only).

Device I/O Dialog Box

If an error occurs during device I/O then the dialog box appears where you can choose how to handle the error.

> The following information is displayed: **[W]** indicates that error occurred when writing to device, **LUN** - disk number in the virtual RAID, sector numbers where error has occurred, attempt number, error number, and error description (given by OS in Windows). After a number of retries (defined by parameters) program waits for a user reaction (unless skipping errors mode in parameters is selected) and the button **Retry** becomes active. Dialog box appears before the block of data is processed.

Abort: abort current operation.

> Pressing Abort causes error sectors not to be copied to the destination (this behaviour may change in the future versions). Button is inactive if the operation is not abortable.

Retry: retry I/O.

> In some cases it is possible to successfully read a sector and continue without data distortion after a number of retries. Button is inactive while I/O is in the progress.

Ignore: continue operation ignoring the error.

> The current operation will be continued but most probably with data distortion. When reading file system structures this may cause loss of some files and directory structure damage.

Ignore all: continue operation ignoring all analogous errors.

> After a number of retries (defined by parameters) program does not wait for user choise but ignore the error and continue the current operation.

Reset: reopen device (Windows NT+ only).

ATA software reset if busy: perform ATA soft reset. Available only if device is opened via **ATA interface** under DOS.

Parameters: Device I/O settings

Confirm, Cancel: used for **`%CONFIRM%`** variable in the Device I/O Handler Script

Device I/O Handler Script

The script can be used for I/O error logging and for extended processing of errors (include external program calls). The feature is available in the Professional Edition only.

Script can be loaded or modified via Device I/O Parameters (button **Script**).

The file **ondevhsc.txt** contains a brief description of available commands and some script examples.

Possible script lines are of the form:
IF CONDITION COMMAND
or
COMMAND
or
:LABEL

where **CONDITION** is an inequality or equality (**!=**, **>**, **<**, **>=**, **<=**, **=**) of two quantities,
and quantity is either an integer constant (**0**, **1**, ...) or a variable (the list is below) or a simple mathematical expression (operators **+**, **-**, *****, **%**, **/**, without parentheses, ignoring the mathematical order of operators), e.g. **%ERROR%=0**

Comments are preceded by two minuses (**--**)

Variables

Zero based

%CONFIRM%	=**1** if **Confirm** pressed, =**0** if **Cancel** pressed (confirmation dialog box appears)
%DISKNUM%	disk number in RAID array
%TRYNUM%	i/o retry number
%LBA%	first i/o sector number
%SECNUM%	number of i/o sectors
%ERROR%	i/o error
%ATASTATUS%	ATA Status Register value (defined if BSY bit is cleared, DOS ATA only)
%ATAERROR%	ATA Error Register (defined if ERR bit of **%ATASTATUS%** is set)
%LINE%	current line number in script
%SERVICE%	i/o service: **0**-ATA **1**-ATAPI **3**-BIOSINT13OLD **4**-BIOSINT13 **5**-DOSINT25 **6**-DOSINT73 **8**-DOSMSCDEX **9**-DOSFILE **11**-WINFILE **12**-WINSCSI **14**-WIN9XINT13 **20**-LINUXFILE
%LASTRES%	result of the previous command
%LASTERR%	error of the previous command

Commands

SHOWDLG - force device i/o dialog box popping up

WAIT - wait for user choice

DELAY N - delay for N msec

EXECCMD CMDLINE - execute external command CMDLINE using Command interpreter
(equals "cmd CMDLINE" in Windows)

EXECCMDQ CMDLINE - execute without creating new console window (quiet)

EXEC "FILENAME" CMDLINE - call external programm FILENAME with parameter CMDLINE

EXECQ "FILENAME" CMDLINE - call without creating new console window (quiet)

MSDOS - call Command processor (not supported in Linux)

GOTO LABELNAME - jump to label LABELNAME in script (to the string **:LABELNAME**)

RETURN - break script execution, handle error according to device I/O params

RETRETRY - break script as **Retry** button pressed

RETIGNORE - break script as **Ignore** button pressed

RETABORT - break script as **Abort** button pressed

ADDLOG "FILENAME" LOGLINE - write LOGLINE to file FILENAME
(string LOGLINE may contain variables)

CANCELIO - Call **CancelIO** (WinNT+ only)
(available if a device is opened with **overlapped** option)

OVLRESLT N - Check **Overlapped** result (N=1: wait; N=0: not wait) (WinNT+ only)
(must be used if a device is opened with **overlapped** option)

RESETHANDLE - Reopen disk handle (WinNT+ only)

ATARESET - ATA Soft Reset (DOS ATA only)

ATARESETDET - ATA Soft Reset followed by ATA Identify (DOS ATA only)

Format specifiers

-- To format output integer a variable name may be followed
-- by a format specifier after a colon, e.g.
-- %LBA:8x% - width: 8, hexadecimal

Sample

```
IF %ERROR%=0 RETURN -- return if no error on last i/o
IF %ERROR%=128 GOTO LABEL1
IF %ERROR%=5 GOTO LABEL1
RETURN

:LABEL1
IF %CONFIRM%=0 RETRETRY -- retry if Cancel button is pressed
-- continue script execution if Confirm is pressed
EXECCMD /K ECHO error %ERROR% at LBA: %LBA% (%SECNUM%) try: %TRYNUM%. Type EXIT
to return.
IF %TRYNUM%<2 RETRETRY
DELAY 500
ADDLOG "C:\ERRORS.LOG" error %ERROR:x% at LBA: %LBA:10% (%SECNUM%) try:
%TRYNUM%
RETIGNORE
```

Disk Images and Clones

- Copy sectors (menu "Tools"): creating and writing images, disk cloning
- Disk images (Menu "Drive"): opening and using image as device

RAID Arrays

Dialog box "Construct RAID"

A tool to construct virtual RAIDs using individual disks (or partitions and images) when it is not possible to use standard tools of the controller (hardware RAID) or the operating system (software RAID).

If it is necessary disks must be detached from the RAID controller and attached to a computer as single disks.

Incorrect selection of a RAID type or data rotation (striping) leads to incorrect data recovery (despite that the directory structure may be reconstucted correctly).

RAID types

RAID-0. Usually contains two disks on which information is written alternately by blocks (stripes). If one disk is absent only small files which fit into single block may be recovered. RAID-0 is supported in read/write mode.

RAID-1. Usually contains two disks, data is duplicated. Stripe size is not used. Supported in read-only mode. One healphy disk may be opened as a single device without loss of data.

RAID-4. Usually contains three disks. One disk is for parity. Data is alternated between the rest disks. It is possible to recover all data without any one of the disks. Use **NULL device** instead of the absent device. Supported in read-only mode.

RAID-5. Usually contains three disks (or more). Data is alternated between all disks herewith one block of parity per the rest blocks of data. There are four types of data rotation on a RAID-5. Some RAIDs (usually hardware) may have delayed parity. It is possible to recover all data without any one of the disks (which should be replace with **NULL device**). Supported in read-only mode.

RAID-6. Usually contains four disks (or more). It is similar to **RAID-5** with exception that two blocks of parity (different types) are used. Only type of parity is supported so only one disk may be replaced with **NULL device**. Read-only.

RAID: Custom rotation. You may define your own **striping** (use **Menu** - **Striping...**). Use integer numbers from **0** to specify data blocks according to their order on disks, **-1** to specify **XOR**-parity block, and **-2** to specify unused block.

E.g. for the diagram:

Disk#0	Disk#1	Disk#2	Disk#3
A1	A2	Ap	Aq
B1	Bp	Bq	B2
Cp	Cq	C1	C2
Dq	D1	D2	Dp

=>

striping must be specified in the following way:

```
 0  1 -1 -2
 2 -1 -2  3
-1 -2  4  5
-2  6  7 -1
```

JBOD/Spanned. Just a bound of disks which are used as one continuous disk. There is no data alternation, stripe size is not used. Data located on any disk will be lost if the disk is absent. JBOD is supported in read/write mode.

RAID parameters

Stripe Size: data rotation block size. Not used in **RAID-1**, **JBOD**
Delay: used in **RAID-5** and **RAID-6** with delayed parity only.

Offset: data start offset on disk (usually used on software RAIDs).
Offset and Size: partition offset and size for **JBOD/Spanned** disks.
Null disk: used instead of absent or damaged disk.
Striping...: manually specify striping for **Custom RAID**.
Save/Load: save/load RAID configuration.

File Panel

File panel displays virtual directory structure and allows browsing through directories and selecting items to recover or to open them in the Disk Editor. You should open a volume to access the file panel.

Open virtual directory **`[All Found + Reconstruction]`** to virtually reconstruct file system and display all found and removed files and directories. The results of Full Scan are used for reconstruction.

To recover files marked as "found" or "deleted" (see icon description below) the corresponding options must be selected in the data recovery dialog box.

> Directory structure is virtual and may differ from the one that can be found directly on the disk or in the standard browser. Virtual names are enclosed in square brackets or begin with the sign **$** and are usually placed in the topmost level of the directory structure. Virtual directory **$Root** generally corresponds to a root directory of a volume in the standard browser.

Press **Enter** key or double click to open the directory, or open the file in the Disk Editor.
Press **Ctrl+Enter** to open the item in the Disk Editor.
Press **Insert** key or **Space Bar** or click the checkbox to toggle marking the item for recovery.
Press **Shift+F9**/**Shift+F10** or right click the item for a context menu.

GUI	Console	Icon Description
	**[.]**	general directory containing files
	**[ ]**	directory not containing files
	**[x]**	directory containing deleted files
	**[f]**	directory containing "found" files
	**[x}**	directory containing deleted and "found" files
	**(x)**	deleted directory
	**(.)**	deleted directory containing not deleted files (some kind of file system error)
	**(f)**	deleted directory containing "found" files
	**(x}**	"found" deleted directory
	**(.}**	"found" deleted directory containing general files
	**{f}**	"found" directory (name is followed by MFT fragment number in square brackets)
	**{.}**	"found" directory containing general files
	**{.)**	"found" directory containing general and deleted files
	**.**	general file
	**f**	"found" file (name is followed by MFT fragment number in square brackets)
	**x**	deleted file
	**xf**	"found" deleted file
	**[.]**	**`[MetaData]`** - virtual directory containing special file system files
	**[.]**	**`[NonameData]`** - virtual directory containing MFT files without names
	**[>]**	directory is not completely investigated
	**|.|**	virtual directory containing fragments of a file occupying several MFT files
	**.**	**`FileName:StreamName`** - NTFS alternate data stream **`StreamName`** of a file **`FileName`**

Disk Editor

Disk editor allows you to view and edit disk objects such as sectors, files and other file system and disk structures in hexadecimal and formatted (structured) modes including the use of Custom Templates to parse data.

Select Object:

- use the menu Editor to select disk or file system object or to jump to a specified position
- use File panel to select a file or directory (right click for a context menu or press **Ctrl+Enter**)

Select View Mode (Template): menu Mode.

Enable Edit Mode: menu Edit - **Edit Mode** (**Ctrl+E**).
NTFS file editing is supported in RAW mode only.

Apply Changes: menu **Drive** - Apply Changes (**Ctrl+W**).

Use the menu Tools for additional functions:

- Copy sectors... to write the selection or the entire object to a file.
- Fill sectors... to fill sectors with a pattern.
- Search string to search string in the selected object.
- Search spec. sector to find some data structure on a disk.

Yellow text color in the Disk Editor indicates modified but not written data.
Grayed text color indicates unused data (unused part of the cluster, unused entry, etc.).
Green data color indicates I/O errors while reading corresponding sector.
Red text color indicates logical errors in the data.

Disk Editor Templates

Apart built-in templates, Disk Editor supports custom templates to view and edit different disk structures. Conditions, "goto" operators, simple arithmetics may be used to parse complex disk structures, such as MFT records.

By default templates are loaded from the file **`template.txt`**. To use different files ini-parameter **`editortemplates=`** may be used, wildcards are allowed (e.g., **`editortemplates=template*`**).

See files **`template.txt`** and **`template.tx_`** for template samples.

Template File Structure

Each template begins with a name in square brackets **`[Template Name]`** followed by the template parameters and commands (one per line).

Template Parameters

`flow:0` - display single record at a time. **`flow:1`** - display records in a flow.
`h:Header` - display static **`Header`** at the top.

Variables

`$RECSIZE` - size of the record.
`$OFFSET` - relative offset applied to **data blocks**.
`$1` ... **`$64`** - custom variables (64-bit signed integers).

Constants

Constants are specified as decimals and hexadecimals (with **`0x`** prefix).

Data Block

Data block is usually a single byte/word/dword at a fixed position but it also may be any range(s) of record bytes/bits which are processed as a single variable. Data block is specified in braces **`{...}`**.

`{X+Z}` defines range of **`Z`** bytes starting at offset **`X`**,
`{X:Y+Z}` defines range of **`Z`** bits starting at offset **`X`** byte and **`Y`** bits,
where **`X`**, **`Y`**, and **`Z`** may be any variables or constants,
several ranges may be separated by commas, e.g. **`{0x00+4,$1:$2+4}`**.

Data Block Formats

Format defines how data block is represented and edited (e.g. as integer / char / string, etc.).

The following formats are supported:
`%u` - unsigned integer (up to 32bit)
`%D` - signed integer (32bit)
`%I` - signed integer (64bit)
`%X` - hexadecimal (up to 32bit)
`%IX` - hexadecimal (up to 64bit)
`%c` - ANSI character (8bit)
`C` - array of ANSI characters
`U` - array of Unicode characters (UTF-16)
`UNIXDATE` - Unix date (seconds since epox)
`FILETIME` - Windows file time (nanoseconds since 1601)
`F:ABCD..` - Flags (where **`A`** is displayed if bit 0 set, and **`B`** if bit 0 clear, etc.)

Output

Output command defines the position on the screen and format for data block or variable or outputs text.

`{...},x:X,w:W,c:C,f:Format` outputs data block **`{...}`** at column **`X`** with the maximum width **`W`**.
`x:X,w:W,c:C,f:Text` outputs **`Text`** at column **`X`** with the maximum width **`W`** in color **`C`**.
Color **`c:C,`** is optional (**`0`** - default, **`1`** - title, **`8`** - red, **`10`** - grayed).
`=` (equal sign) specifies end of line (line feed).

Conditions

Conditions are used in the following way:

```
IF Condition
  ... (commands to be performed if Condition is true)
ELSE
  ... (commands to be performed if Condition is false)
ENDIF
```

where **`Condition`** is a comparison (**`==`**, **`<>`**, **`<=`**, etc.) of two **variables**, **constants**, or **data blocks**.

Labels and Jumps

Line **`LABEL:N`** defines a label, and command **`GOTO:N`** is a jump to line **`LABEL:N`**, where **`N`** is any constant. Inaccurate use of **`GOTO`** may cause infinite loop.

Assignment Operator

Assignment operator **`:=`** may be used to assign variables with a constant values, data block values, other variable values and the result of their addition or subtraction, e.g. **`$1:=$2+{X:Y}`**, **`$OFFSET:=$OFFSET+8`**.

Switches

Switches may be used e.g. to hide/show some lines by clicking or pressing **Spacebar**. E.g., command **`$1:=TOGGLE:N,x:X`** outputs button **[+]** (**[-]**) at column **X**, where **N** is a unique switch number (variables and constants are allowed, the best way is to use the next data offset); variable **`$1`** gets value **0** or **1** depending on the switch state. Only one switch may be in state **1**.

Additional Template Sections

Record size calculation: commands between lines **`CALCSIZESTART`** and **`CALCSIZEEND`**. It is used when record size may be greater than the sector size and may depend on disk data. Variable **`$RECSIZE`** may be assigned in this section only.

Data preprocessing: commands between lines **`LOADSTART`** and **`LOADEND`**. It is used e.g. for MFT USN processing (restoration of last two bytes of each sector). Data blocks may be assigned in this section: e.g., use **`{U+Y}:={X+Y}`** to copy **`Y`** bytes at offset **`X`** to offset **`U`**.

Data postprocessing: commands between lines **`FLUSHSTART`** and **`FLUSHEND`**. It is used for reverse operation when writing modified data to disk (data blocks may be assigned).

Cluster Map (File Allocation)

Volume cluster map allow finding the file located at a given cluster/sector.

To use cluster map first open volume and update cluster map (menu **Tools**).

To go to a specific location use menu commands

- **Editor**-**Volume Cluster** [**Alt+C**] to go to a specific volume cluster
- **Editor**-**Volume Sector** [**Alt+S**] to go to a specific volume sector
- **Editor**-**Physical Sector** [**Alt+P**] to go to a specific device sector

To identify the file located there use menu commands

- **Editor**-**Cluster Map** [**Ctrl+M**] to open cluster map at a selected location.
- **Editor**-**File Data** [**Ctrl+F**] to open file at a selected location.

Status string of the cluster map has the following format:
[current volume cluster/total clusters number] "file (stream) name" vcn: cluster number per file

Menu

- Drive
  - Select Drive...
  - Open Image...
  - Construct RAID...
  - Partitions...
  - Lock Volumes...
  - Device I/O Parameters...
  - Load Rollback Data/Dump from File...
  - Dump Changes to File...
  - Undo Changes
  - Redo Changes
  - Reset All Changes
  - Apply Changes
- Tools
  - Recover...
  - Search in found (by name)...
  - Reconstruct File System...
  - Full Scan...
  - Cluster Map
  - Update Cluster Map
  - Clear Directory Tree
  - NTFS Tools
  - Copy Sectors...
  - Fill Sectors...
  - Search for Special Sector...
  - Search String in Object...
  - Search Again
- Windows
- Editor
- Mode
- Edit

Menu "Drive"

- Select Drive...
- Open Image...
- Construct RAID...
- Partitions...
- Lock Volumes...
- Device I/O Parameters...
- Load Rollback Data/Dump from File...
- Dump Changes to File...
- Undo Changes
- Redo Changes
- Reset All Changes
- Apply Changes

Manage Changes

All changes made in Disk Editor and Partition Manager remains virtual until you explicitly apply them to the disk.

Load Rollback Data/Dump from File...

You may load rollback data (if saved when applying previous changes) and thus undo the last changes. Also you may use the command to load changes which were dumped to a file instead of applying to the disk.

Dump Changes to File...

You may dump changes to a file instead of applying them directly to the disk. Later you may reopen the disk and load all unapplied changes from the file.

Undo Changes

Group undoing the last changes. To undo individual actions use the corresponding commands of Disk Editor (menu edit) or Partition Manager.

Redo Changes

Group redoing the last changes.

Reset All Changes

Discard all unapplied changes.

Apply Changes (Ctrl+W)

Write all changes to the disk. For changes to take effect in operating system you may probably have to restart computer. Under Windows you may not be allowed writing to some disk areas used by volumes - see Volume locking for details. Some antiviruses may also block direct writing to disk. Under Windows you may also try interface option **IO SCSI** to circumvent some restrictions.

Volume Locking

Volume locking is used under Windows NT+ for RAW write access to prevent simultaneous OS access to a volume at the same time.

DMDE tries locking volumes automatically when it is required. However, locking may fail if the volume is being used by system or other applications. In this case, DMDE requests to retry or dismount not locked volumes. Close all applications which may use the volume and retry.

Retry	Retry volume locking
Force	Dismount the volume. **Warning!** All used volume handles will be lost, e.g. unsaved data in opened files will be lost
Ignore	Try RAW writing without locking the volume. **Warning!** File system may be damaged or RAW write access may be denied by operating system
Cancel	Cancel the operation

Warning! You should not lock or dismount the volume from where DMDE software runs from. You may not lock or dismount system volume.

DMDE unlocks volumes when closing the device currently used.

Additionally you may manually manage volume locking using menu **Drive** · **Lock Volumes for Write**.

Menu "Tools"

- Recover...
- Search in found (by name)...
- Reconstruct File System...
- Full Scan...
- Cluster Map
- Update Cluster Map
- Clear Directory Tree
- NTFS Tools
- Copy Sectors...
- Fill Sectors...
- Search for Special Sector...
- Search String in Object...
- Search again

Volume Commands

Search in found (by name)

List files matching the specified pattern. See Data Recovery for options. Search is performed over already found volume files. Reconstruct file system to list deleted and other found files too.

Update Cluster Map

Update file allocation information.

Clear Directory Tree

Reset reconstructed virtual directory tree. View directory structure without the results of NTFS/FAT Search and file system reconstruction.

Virtual File System Reconstruction

Open virtual directory **`[All Found + Reconstruction]`** in the File Panel to virtually reconstruct directory structure and prepare found and removed files and directories for recovery.

The results of Full Scan may be used.

You may improve the results using **Parameters** button and trying different options.

NTFS, extFS

Pure FS Reconstruction
The option provides the most accurate reconstruction when FS is not damaged.

Default Reconstruction, Less/More Results
Use the results of Full Scan. You may decrease/increase the number of the reconstruction results. Use the button **MFT/Parameters** to choose MFT fragments manually.

MFT Numbers
Filter files by numbers for a partial reconstruction (may be useful if there is not enough RAM for the entire reconstruction).

Shifted
Include shifted MFT records into the reconstruction (Full Scan must be performed before).

Extra Found
Include extra found files into the reconstruction (may contain garbage but may help if some file is not recoverable other ways).

Tech. Records
Include special MFT records into the reconstruction for analysis by NTFS specialists.

FS Fragment Selection

Correct
Verified MFT fragments belonging to the selected volume.

Related
If there are some variants of the same volume (cf. Full Scan) then these are MFT fragments belonging to other variants of the selected volume.

Unknown
MFT fragments that can not be verified.

Extraneous
MFT fragments most probably belonging to other volumes.

Small (Extra Found)
Extra found files (see above).

Disabled
Fragments incompatible to the current volume FS parameters.

FAT/exFAT

Use (ex)FAT Search results only
Use the results of the Full Scan only, do not scan the entire volume again.

Rescan the entire volume
Additionally rescan the volume if it is not scanned completely during Full Scan.

FAT Tables Options (button "Parameters")
FAT tables contain cluster chains to assemble fragmented files and directories. The software automatically selects table usage on the base of assessment. However you may try different options to achieve better results of the reconstruction and data recovery on the whole or for specific files.
You may choose which table copy to use (**FAT1** or **FAT2**) or deprecate table usage (**do not use FAT tables**) if tables are badly damaged or use the option **check (do not use bad sectors)** to avoid wrong chains if there is some damage in tables.

NTFS Tools

Warning! The use of NTFS Tools on incompatible NTFS volume may damage the file system. Do not use the tools if the program does not recognize file system properly or you are not sure if it is.
Never execute the commands on the system volume (where operating system files are located) otherwise it will be damaged.
Volume locking is performed when writing to volumes. After executing the commands you should check the volume with the system utility **`chkdsk`**.
It is not recommended to create file names with special symbols.

Open NTFS volume and enter the necessary directory in the file panel before using tools.

Copy File

Copy, overwrite, or append file to the opened NTFS volume bypassing NTFS system driver.
Read the warning **before using.**
• Open destination directory in the file panel to copy file to.
• Call the command from menu.
• Select the source file.
• Enter destination file name.
• Choose either to overwrite or append file if the destination file exists.
A continuous free space on the volume is required for writing the file.

Create Directory

Create a directory on the opened NTFS volume bypassing NTFS system driver.
Read the warning **before use.**
Directory is being created in the current folder of the file panel.

Remove File/Empty Directory

Remove selected file or empty directory from opened NTFS volume bypassing NTFS system driver.
Read the warning **and** NTFS write issue **before use.**

Repair Directory INDX-records

Repair NTFS directory currently opened in the file panel.
Read the warning **before use.**

Copy Sectors

A tool for creating disk images, clones, writing images back to disk, and copying different disk objects. Write is performed directly to the destination, the operation may not be undone. For changes to take effect in OS you may probably have to reload computer. See Volume locking also.

Source and Destination

Button	Purpose
Device	Select Device, Logical disk (volume), Image as source/destination sectors
Partition	Select Partition as source/destination sectors (use **Device** button to select the disk before), To select the entire current device/disk/RAID double click the topmost item in the partition list
File	Use file as source bytes / a destination (alternatively **Device** · **Open Image** to use file as sectors)
Editor	Use the object opened in the Disk Editor window as source bytes
Selected	Use selected block of the Disk Editor object as source bytes

Source fields **Start Sector/Byte**, **End Sector/Byte**, **Number of Sectors/Size in Bytes** are filled in automatically on source selection by buttons. If a **File** or **Editor** is used as a source then fields are specified **in bytes**. You may manually specify a range inside the source object to copy.

Destination field **Start Sector** is also filled in automatically on destination selection by the button **Device** or **Partition**. **Start Sector** is an offset relative to the beginning of the destination object. **Start Sector** of the **source** is copied to the **Start Sector** of the **destination** regardless the direction of copying.

If RAID is constructed then it may be used as a source/destination.

Using the **Device** button you may select a file (disk image) as a source or a destination. Then you may specify parameters available for a disk only.

If **Editor** or **Selected** is used as a source then some logical errors (such as invalid cluster or sector numbers) are silently ignored.

Parameters

Log file contains a report on the copied sectors and errors. If a **partition** is selected as a source then sector numbers are relative to the beginning of the disk (not the partition).

The option "**use log to continue copying**" allows skipping already copied sectors (the option is available in Professional Edition only). In particular if copy settings and **parameters** are not changed then copying will continue from the last position when started. The option may also be used for multi-pass copying with decreasing jumps on bad sectors, preliminary copying of important areas, copying in different directions.

> Changing some device I/O **parameters** (decreasing **jump over sectors**, increasing **auto retries number** from **0**, decreasing **I/O buffer size** if there are **0** retries) on a new pass will cause copying sectors previously skipped due to jumps after bad sectors.
> The option "**Retry copying bad sectors from log**" is to copy bad sectors again when all skipped sectors are already copied (Professional Edition only). On each pass bad sectors are being copied from the beginning, continuation is not possible.

Flush log when number of sectors copied: flush buffer log to disk (update log-file) regularly when number of sectors is copied.

The button "**Parameters**" allows setting device I/O parameters to handle errors (such as retries, jumps through bads, etc.)

Reverse copy: copy backward (from the end to the beginning) to create an image of a disk with problems.

Double thread: perform read and write operations in parallel threads to increase the speed. Do not use the option for

copying disks with errors.

The field **Continue from sector/byte** specifies the position to continue copying. The position is relative to the source beginning. Copying in **reverse** direction starts previos to the specified position and goes backward (e.g., if set to **`10`** then sector **9** is copied first and copying goes to the beginning).

The option **Lock the source for copy** is for locking the volumes located over the source area to prevent modification of the source during copying (Windows only).

Fill Sectors

Write a hex pattern or pattern from a file to a sector range of the device. Write is performed directly to the disk, the operation may not be undone. Pattern is written multiple times, covering all specified sectors.

The maximum size of the hex pattern is 8 bytes. Use files for larger patterns.

Sector alignment. If the option is checked and the next pattern copy does not fit into the sector entirely then pattern writing starts from the beginning of the next sector. Otherwise patterns are being written consistently regardless of sector boundaries.

Special Sector Search

Search for special disk or file system structure. Search is performed over disk sectors starting next to the current sector.

Boot Signature: search for a sector having boot signature `0xAA55`.

Boot Sector: search for a FAT/NTFS boot sector.

Partition Table Sector: search for a partition table.

MFT Record: search for MFT file.

NTFS Dir Record: search for NTFS directory INDX-record.

FAT Table Sector FAT16,
FAT Table Sector FAT32: search for FAT cluster table (file allocation table).

FAT Directory: search for FAT directory.

Search String in Object...

Search for a string in the Editor object.

Search Again

Continue searching the string over the current object or specific sector over the disk starting from the current position in the Disk Editor.

Menu "Windows"

- Directory Tree
- File Panel
- Editor
- Search Panel (Search in Found)

Menu "Editor"

Select object to open in Disk Editor.

Partition Table	Open all disk sectors. Go to the MBR sector (the first disk sector).
Boot Sector	Open all volume sectors. Go to the volume boot sector (the first sector of the volume opened).
Boot Sector Copy	Open all volume sectors. Go to the volume boot sector copy.
Root Directory	Open volume root directory.
FAT/MFT	Open FAT1 (main cluster table) for FAT volume, MFT for NTFS.
FAT Copy/MFT Mirror	Open FAT2 (cluster table copy) for FAT, MFTMirr for NTFS.
MFT Record...	Open MFT. Go to the specified MFT file.
Volume Cluster...	Open all volume sectors. Go to the specified volume cluster.
Volume Sector...	Open all volume sectors. Go to the specified volume sector.
Physical Sectors...	Open specified drive sectors. Go to the specified drive sector.
File Data	Open file located at the current cluster.
Directory Entry	Open directory containing current file. Go to the file entry.
FAT Cluster/MFT Record	For FAT: open FAT1; go to the FAT1 cluster corresponding the current volume cluster. For NTFS: open MFT; go to the MFT record corresponding the current file or volume cluster.
Cluster Map	Open Cluster Map. Go to the map cluster corresponding the current volume cluster.
Goto Object Offset...	Go to the specified position of the opened object.

Except for commands **Partition Table** and **Physical Sectors** you should open a volume at first.

Menu "Mode"

Toggle Disk Editor view mode.

Custom Templates	Select custom template
Hexadecimal, Text	Use menu item **Encoding** to change view code table.
FAT Directory	Press **Enter** key to open file data or directory in the Editor window (if FAT volume is opened).
FAT12/FAT16/FAT32	FAT cluster table. Press **Enter** key to jump to the corresponding volume cluster.
Partition Table MBR/GPT	Use the command again or press **F6** to switch between MBR/GPT/GPT Copy. Press **Enter** key to jump to the mentioned sector.
FAT/FAT32/NTFS Boot Record	Volume boot sector. Use the command again or press **F7** to select the next file system. Press **Enter** to open volume.
NTFS Directory	NTFS directory INDX-record. Press **Enter** to open file or directory in the Editor window (if NTFS volume is opened).
MFT Record	Press **Enter** key to open selected attribute or directory in the Editor window. Press **Space** bar to view attribute details.
NTFS File RAW Sectors	Switch between decoded file data and RAW sector data (as on drive).
Encoding...	Select code table to translate text in **Hexadecimal**/**Text** mode.

Menu "Edit"

Commands to use in Disk Editor.

Fill Zero Block	Fill the selected block with zeroes
Copy	Copy the selected block to the internal buffer
Paste	Paste internal buffer data at the current cursor postition
Paste File...	Paste file at the current cursor postition
Select Block	Toggle selection mode. Or hold down **Shift** and use arrow keys or hold down left mouse button
Select All	Select the entire object
Reread block	Read data from the disk again
Hide/Show Changes...	Switch between displaying the initial data and the modified data
Undo	Undo the last edit (in the mode hex/text - all changes within the sector)
Redo	Redo editing
Edit Mode	Toggle edit/read only mode