Why should I format my flash card to FAT16? (Fat 16 vs. Fat 32)

The File Allocation Table (FAT) stores the information, such as the filename, location, size, etc. required for a user to access the data. FAT16 uses file allocation table entries that are 16 bits in length. Hard drives using FAT16 are limited to 2GB partitions.

FAT32 was developed to break through the 2GB restriction, while still being backward compatible with FAT16. FAT32 is able to support volumes up to 2048GB.

Most personal electronics today using flash memory use FAT16. If you are not sure whether or not your device supports FAT32, takeMS recommends formatting the flash card to FAT16.

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