

UDO2 Frequently Asked Questions

What is UDO2?

UDO2 is the second generation in a multiple generation technology roadmap for UDO (Ultra Density Optical) archival storage. UDO2 drives and media are integrated into Plasmon's UDO Archive Appliance and G-Series libraries to provide a wide range of capacities for professional archive environments.

UDO2



UDO2 Media

What is the capacity and performance increase of UDO2?

First generation UDO1 provides a 30GB media capacity with a maximum read performance of 8MB/sec. UDO2 doubles media capacity to 60GB and the maximum read performance is increased by 50% to 12MB/sec.

How did Plasmon double the capacity of UDO2 media?

The extra capacity of UDO2 media was achieved by using a higher resolution blue laser and lens assembly (0.85 NA) and by increasing the density of the data written to the media surface. Like UDO1, UDO2 media uses a single layer recording surface.

Is UDO2 media available in the same media formats as UDO1?

Yes. UDO2 media is available in Rewritable, True Write Once (WORM), and Compliant Write Once media formats.

How can I physically distinguish between UDO1 and UDO2 media?

The shutters on UDO2 media cartridge are clearly labelled with the UDO2 logo and 60GB media capacity, easily distinguishing them from 30GB UDO1 media. The colour of UDO1 and UDO2 media cartridges remain the same. Blue cartridges identify True Write Once and Compliant Write Once, and grey is used for Rewritable media.

Will Plasmon offer UDO2 media with barcodes?

Yes. As with UDO1 media, UDO2 media can also be purchased with or without barcode labels. Barcoded media is required with UDO Archive Appliance and optional with G-Series libraries.

UDO2 Drives

Can UDO1 media be read and written to in a UDO2 drive?

UDO2 drives are backward read compatible with UDO1 media. This means that UDO1 media can be read in UDO2 drives, but a UDO2 drive cannot write new data to existing UDO1 media.

Will UDO2 drives be able to shred files on UDO1 Compliant Write Once media?

Yes. UDO2 drives can execute the shred operation on previously written UDO1 Compliant Write Once media. This command allows for the physical destruction of individual files written to the media at their end-of-life.

Can UDO2 media be read / written to in a UDO1 drive?

No. UDO1 drives are not forward compatible with the new higher density UDO2 media.

Can MO (Magneto Optical) media be read / written in a UDO2 drive?

No. As with UDO1 drives, UDO2 drives cannot read or write much older generation MO media. Red laser based MO technology is not compatible with the new blue laser UDO drives and media.

How does the drive identify UDO1 and UDO2 disks?

UDO1 and UDO2 media have the exact same physical form factor (ISO standard 5.25 inch cartridge). The only difference is the pattern of holes at the base of the cartridge. These holes are identified by the drive and used to distinguish the two media generations.

I have heard that UDO2 drives have a different door configuration. Why has this change been made?

Yes. UDO2 drives now have a door that closes when the media is loaded. This change was made to further reduce any risk of particle contamination on the media, when using a stand-alone drive. UDO2 drives installed in UDO Archive Appliance and G-Series libraries remain unchanged as the risk of contaminants affecting media in libraries is already reduced.

What interfaces are offered on UDO2?

UDO2 drives are available with either an LVD SCSI or USB2 interface.

What Operating System drivers are supplied with UDO2 drives?

As with UDO1, UDO2 Desktop Drives are shipped with drivers for Windows and Linux operating systems. Vista (new OS from Microsoft) will be supported within a few months of first availability.

Does the UDO2 drive provide data encryption?

Yes. A drive level data encryption option has been added to UDO2 drives. This new feature can be implemented by software applications to provide an extra level of security for data written to UDO2 media.

Can I use the UDO1 cleaning cartridge in a UDO2 drive?

UDO2 drives have been designed to eliminate the need for a separate lens cleaning cartridge by incorporating a built in lens cleaning system. A UDO2 cleaning cartridge is therefore not available and not required.

UDO2 and the UDO Archive Appliance

Can I upgrade my UDO Archive Appliance to support UDO2?

Yes. This can be accomplished by simply replacing all of the UDO1 drives with new UDO2 drives inside your UDO Archive Appliance. Since UDO2 drives are backward read compatible with UDO1 media, data written on older UDO1 media remains fully accessible. There is no requirement to migrate data to new UDO2 media. This easy upgrade path protects your original capital investment and minimizes data administration.

Can my UDO Archive Appliance support both UDO1 and UDO2 drives simultaneously?

No. The UDO Archive Appliance cannot operate with a mix of UDO1 and UDO2 drives. UDO2 drives allows the reading of UDO1 media as long as all UDO1 media has been "closed".

What is the maximum capacity of a UDO Archive Appliance with UDO2?

The largest single UDO Archive Appliance configuration has a system capacity of 76TB. This consists of an AA638 (638 slot UDO Archive Appliance) plus an AE638 (638 slot Extension Library). For larger archive capacity requirements, multiple UDO Archive Appliances can be deployed.

UDO2 and G-Series Libraries

Can I upgrade my UDO1 or MO G-Series library to support UDO2?

Yes. This can be accomplished by simply replacing MO and UDO1 drives with new UDO2 drives. Since UDO2 drives are backward read compatible with UDO1 media, data written on older UDO1 media remains fully accessible. This easy upgrade path protects your original capital investment and reduces the handling of archive data.

Can my G-Series library support both MO and UDO drives simultaneously?

Yes. G-Series libraries can operate with a mix of MO and UDO1 OR MO and UDO2 drives, allowing full read compatibility for multiple generations of MO and UDO media.

What is the maximum capacity of a G-Series library with UDO2?

The largest single G-Series library configuration has a system capacity of 38TB. For larger archive capacity requirements, multiple G-Series libraries can be deployed.

The Future

Will UDO3 double the capacity of UDO2? When will it be available?

Yes. Third generation UDO3 will double media capacity from 60GB to 120GB. Release schedules currently call for UDO3 availability in 2009.

I've heard about UDO DMD. What is it?

UDO DMD (Digital Master Disk) is UDO2 archive technology that has been specially adapted for the digital mastering industry. UDO DMD media is used by video studios to physically transport valuable video content to mastering facilities that produce masters for high volume CD, DVD and HD DVD / Blu-ray reproduction.

Will Plasmon support Blu-ray / HD DVD drives as well as UDO in their libraries?

No. Plasmon is focused on providing professional archive solutions using high quality UDO storage technology. Plasmon has no plans to support consumer grade Blu-ray or HD DVD optical storage within the UDO Archive Appliance or G-Series libraries.

UDO ARCHIVE
APPLIANCE



UDO2

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