

FAQs from the Blu-ray Disc™ Association Website for PC Blu-ray Drives

1. Why would I want a Blu-ray Disc drive on my PC?

- PCs with Blu-ray Disc capability provide a flexible and powerful solution for watching high definition (HD) movies and experiencing BD-Live features.
- Notebook PCs allow you to enjoy the benefits of Blu-ray Disc on the road as well as in the living room.
- Blu-ray Disc on computers provides you with much larger burning and backup capacity than CD or DVD.
- The computer is an excellent platform for experiencing exciting, interactive BD-Live features, since computers typically include a wired or wireless network connection, powerful processors and extra storage space.
- The HD Camcorder market is growing rapidly. Using Blu-ray Disc on personal computers provides the best way to edit, share and archive HD content.

2. What can I do with a computer that supports Blu-ray Disc?

- 1) Watch Blu-ray Disc movies in up to full 1080p HD resolution with your desktop computer or on the go with your notebook computer
- 2) Watch Blu-ray Disc movies at home by connecting your PC to a home theatre system, HD television, monitor, or projector (Note: HDMI or DisplayPort connections are required on the PC and the monitor).
- 3) Connect and interact with studio special features as well as other Blu-ray Disc movie viewers using Blu-ray Discs that feature BD-Live capabilities.
- 4) Play games and experience interactive bonus content that are included with Blu-ray Disc movies.
- 5) Back up or share up to 50GB of data on one dual layer disc. This makes it easy to back up your entire photo or music library on one disc. One 50GB Blu-ray Disc replaces up to 5 dual layer or 10 single layer DVDs.
- 6) Create, edit, and share HD home movies for playback on your PC, PlayStation 3, or other Blu-ray Disc player.
- 7) Create, view, and share your photos on your television screen at the highest resolution supported by the TV.

3. What features in a PC are important for experiencing Blu-ray Disc?

Several features are key to fully enjoying the benefits of Blu-ray Disc including the following:

- 1) High Definition Display Devices
 - Resolution and Color
 - Connectivity
 - 2) Blu-ray Disc optical drive and playback software that can play Blu-ray Disc movies.
If you plan to purchase a Blu-ray Disc drive separately from your computer and want to know if your computer is capable of playing back Blu-ray Disc movies, there are software tools available that will test your system configuration and inform you if it can provide the required performance.
 - 3) PCs with a recordable Blu-ray Disc drive and disc burning software can burn BD-R (write-once) and BD-RE (rewritable) discs. This can be a terrific backup option as well as long term storage for HD home movies. Note: Some computer Blu-ray Disc drives are designed only to read (i.e., play) Blu-ray Disc movies, while others can both read and write.
 - 4) Blu-ray Disc authoring software for creating and editing HD content and burning discs that are playable in compatible Blu-ray Disc players.
 - 5) Graphics processor designed specifically for the demanding high video bit rate (up to 40Mbits/sec) and other Blu-ray Disc movie features like picture-in-picture. Look for GPUs that specifically indicate support for Blu-ray Disc.
 - 6) Surround-sound audio output capability, surround sound support in the playback software and surround speaker configuration are recommended for the best listening experience.
- While Blu-ray Disc movies can also be enjoyed with lower resolution displays, the best viewing experience is achieved with high definition displays at either 1920 x 1080 (full HD) or 1920 x 1200 (WUXGA) resolution to deliver the full cinematic production experience intended for the viewer. Since most new notebooks and computer monitors sold have HD displays this means that Blu-ray Disc is not only a great experience in the home theater environment but also on the road.
 - It is recommended that Blu-ray Disc-equipped PCs intended for use with home theater systems, high definition televisions, monitors, and projectors support HDMI or DisplayPort or DVI connections with HDCP support.
 - Some notebooks or all-in-one systems might support Blu-ray Disc playback only on their own internal displays.

4. Will my current computer support Blu-ray Disc?

Several software vendors offer a free downloadable system evaluation tool. Visit the following URLs for more information:

- http://www.cyberlink.com/english/support/blu-ray_support/index.jsp
- <http://www.corel.com/servlet/Satellite/us/en/Content/1193332030582>
- <http://www.arcsoft.com/intouch/bdadvisor/>

5. What is the storage capacity of a Blu-ray Disc?

The physical size is the same as a DVD or CD. A single-layer Blu-ray Disc can hold 25GB. A dual-layer disc can hold 50GB, with a “GB” equal to one billion bytes.

6. What read/write speeds are available?

The 1x transfer rate for a Blu-ray Disc drive is 4.5 MB/sec. All drives support at least “2x” transfer rate (9 MB/sec), with some recent models supporting up to 8x, or 36 MB/sec. Blu-ray Disc has the potential for much higher speeds in the future. For comparison, a 40x CD-ROM delivers about 6 MB/sec. This means that your data can be written to the disc much faster when using a Blu-ray Disc drive than a CD or DVD.

7. When will I be able to get a BD-Live capable player for my PC?

If you have a Blu-ray Disc drive in your computer, and that computer is connected to the internet and your player software contains BD-Live capability, you are able to take advantage of BD-Live features delivered on Blu-ray Discs from content providers. BD-Live compatible player software is shipping now from a number of software vendors.

8. What vendors are shipping (or have announced) Blu-ray Disc-enabled computers and products?

Multiple vendors are selling Blu-ray Disc enabled computers today. Several companies are selling internal and external Blu-ray Disc drives that support many OS Platforms including Windows XP, Vista, MacOS and Linux.

9. What is the current availability of application software for playback, recording and editing?

At the time of this writing, we are aware that at least the following companies are selling Blu-ray Disc software applications:

Playback:

- Corel (Windows)
- CyberLink (Windows)
- Arcsoft (Windows)

Burning/Backup:

- Sonic Solutions/Roxio (Mac/Windows)
- NCH (Mac/Windows)
- Nero (Windows)
- CyberLink (Windows)
- Corel (Windows)
- ArcSoft (Windows)

Editing/Creation:

- Arcsoft (Windows)
- Corel (Windows)
- CyberLink (Windows)
- Nero (Windows)
- Roxio (Windows)

10. How does regional coding work in the computer space? Is playback s/w sensitive to regional coding?

Much like DVD, all Blu-ray Disc players are required to support region playback coding regardless of the type of player (i.e., hardware or software). Use of region playback codes is optional for content providers, and not all titles use them. The Blu-ray Disc format specifies only three regions (A, B and C), while DVD had eight, thereby expanding the geographical size of each region. The region of any region-protected Blu-ray Disc purchased should match the region of the world for which the player is configured. Like any Blu-ray Disc player, Blu-ray Disc-equipped computer systems are required to support regional coding. Computer systems can be reset to a different region up to five times to accommodate relocations to different parts of the world.