



Article published on January 12th 2012 | [Hardware](#)

The concept of storage media started in somewhere in 1960. The beginning was with floppy drives those were of 8 inch in size. As the time passed they became to be used professionally in 1971. Originally introduced by IBM had many different type of interfaces like Shugart, Memorex and Burroughs. The media started to be called as Floppy Disk and the device started to be known as Floppy Drive. The time passed and in 1976 Shugart produced its 1st 5.25 inches floppy drive. And in another 10 years there were more than 10 manufacturers running on the same track. In 1984 IBM invented 1.2 mb double sided floppy disk. They also started up with 720 kb Double Density formats and High density 2.88 mb formats thereby increasing the competition. There were a lot of limitations for these huge sized 8 inch floppy disks. Competition grew as the days passed and all manufacturers started to look for small sized storage options. Sony came out with good option of 3.5 inch floppy drive in 1980 which had good advantages against the previous version. It was strong and much secured. The size was small.

Floppy drives became popular during period of 1980s and 1990s with their use increasing in personal computers to store and move data. Prior to Hard disk, floppy drive were on media to transfer data. Hard to believe the old computer had no hard drives to start from, all of them used to boot a work on floppy drives only, and many had 2 in them. As the software sizes started to inflate with the announcement of Microsoft Platforms, the need for larger storage media started. Hard to believe that some applications like Adobe in its basic version required more than 12 floppy disks to be used for single installation.

Storage options grew day by day and eventually the floppy drives start floppy disks started to fade out. But ironically this was not the end of floppy drive era. We were still left with industrial machines and its users who were relying a lot on floppy drive for its data transfer. Still today there are many industrial applications those are heavily or even we can say completely dependent on floppy drive. Floppy drives are bread and butter of these machines. Without these floppy drives they can't even wake up. All fields of industrial users like Textile, Railways, Robotics, Medicine, Weaponry, CNC, Musical Instruments like Keyboard, Drilling Machines and PCB manufacturing machines are still being heavily dependent on these floppy drives. These days the floppy drives have become hell of a problem as they are no longer available in market and the biggest issue is the bad quality of bad media of floppy disk in the market

The time to end of an era of floppy drives was announced with the invention of floppy to usb converters, which few manufacturers across the globe also refer to as floppy to usb emulators, floppy to usb simulators, floppy emulators and floppy drive emulators. The manufacturers have really worked hard and given a serious thought in this marvelous invention. They have manufactured different versions of floppy to usb converters keeping in mind the needs of the industry. These floppy to usb converters were designed so smartly that they use same traditional floppy drive 34 pin channels and same +5 volts dc voltage. The size of these floppy to usb converters was also kept same, so that it can fit into same place. These emulators have practically started the end of and old era related to floppy drives.

Conclusion: Now with the invention of these smart floppy to usb converters the industrial users can slowly phase out the floppy drive with these new floppy to usb converters and can get rid of these old killing floppy drives.

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Writer is an expert on a [floppy disk drive to usb](#). If you want to discuss more on floppy to usb or a [floppy to usb emulator](#) or floppy to usb converter, For more information visit, <http://www.floppytousb.net>

Article Keywords:

Floppy Disk to USB, Floppy to USB Converter, Floppy to USB Conversion, Floppy to USB Emulator, Floppy to USB Simulator, Floppy to USB Adapter, Floppy Drive Emulator, Floppy Disk Drive to USB, Floppy Disc to USB, 3.5 Floppy to USB, 5.25 Floppy to USB

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