



IITS recommends using Thumb Drives, also known as Flash Drives or Memory Keys, as a way to save and transfer files.

Floppy disks contain moving parts which easily break. They also are affected by magnetic interference, like speakers and other electronics. Floppy drives are intended to be used for short periods of time, usually no more than three months, and are very susceptible to data corruption. Thumb drives plug into a standard USB port, use flash memory, which uses no moving parts, offer faster transfer speeds, and have greater capacity than a floppy disk. Over the past few years this technology has been tried and proven to work well and be very dependable. Many people even put their thumb drives through the washing machine and it came out still working! Don't try that with a floppy disk.

The extra cost is minimal. A 128MB thumb drive can be purchased for only \$30, often less. To have that same capacity you would need to buy 89 floppy disks. A 100 pack of floppies is about \$25, but would also need to be replaced as they are used and wear out.

Lexar and SanDisk drives have been tested with our equipment and we've had success with those brands. "Secure" thumb drives, have not worked in computer labs, but many times could be fixed to do so.

These devices can be purchased nearly everywhere.

- Utica College Bookstore
- Walmart
- Staples
- BestBuy
- Circuit City

