

Format the M.2 SSD for macOS

1 Getting Started with Your M.2 SSD: Which Format Should You Use?

Before you can use your new M.2 SSD, you'll need to format it. The format you choose depends on how—and where—you plan to use the drive.

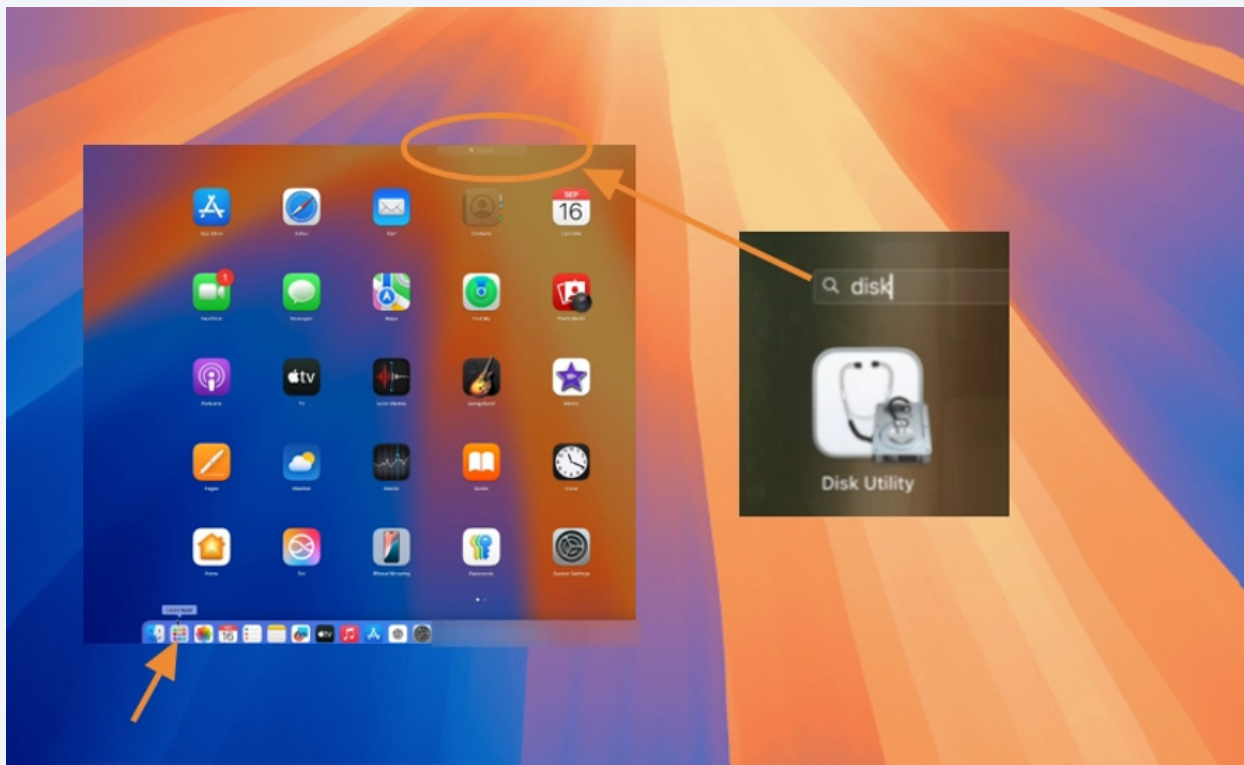
Different systems like **Windows** and **macOS** use different file formats. Choosing the right one will help your SSD run smoothly and make sure your files are easy to access, whether you're storing documents, editing videos, or moving files between devices.

2 Choose a format based on your usage scenario.

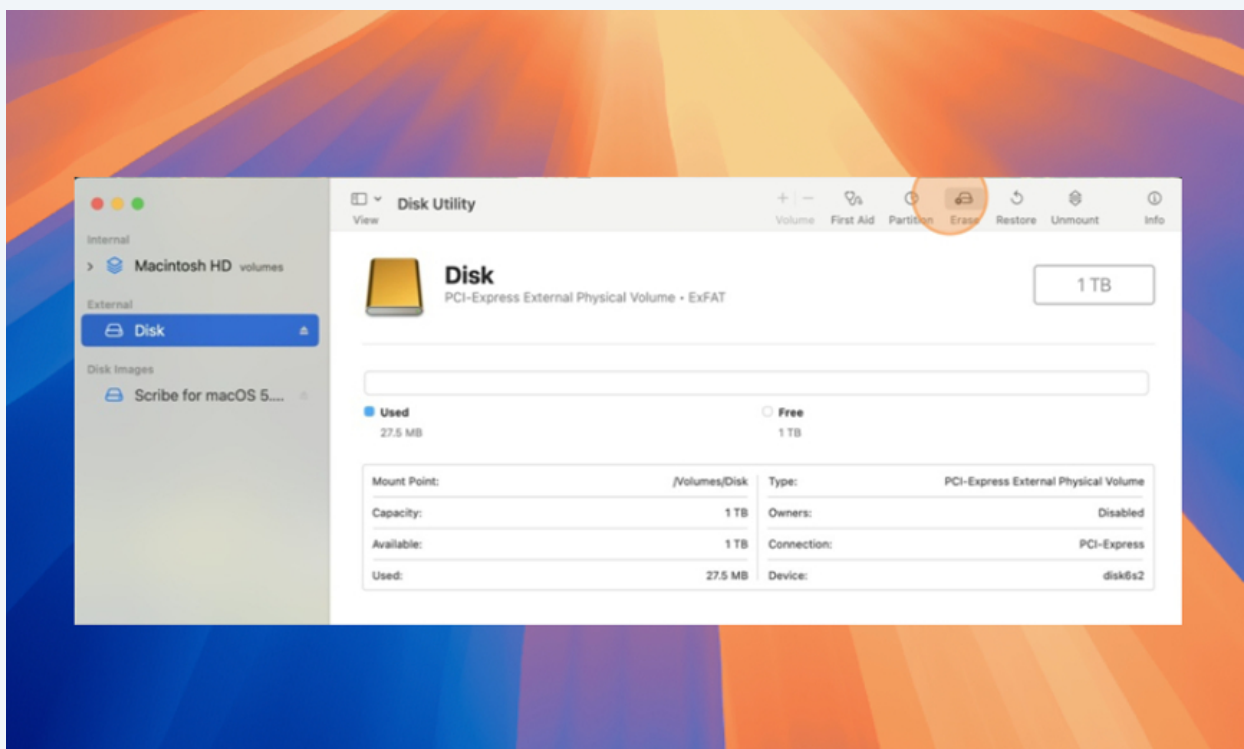
Usage Scenario	Recommended Format	Notes
Cross-platform (Windows + macOS)	exFAT	Works seamlessly on both systems with full read/write access
Windows-only	NTFS	Optimized for Windows performance; supports file permissions and security
macOS-only	APFS (best for SSDs)	Best performance for modern macOS systems with SSDs

3 Here are the steps to **format your M.2 SSD to APFS**, which is recommended for the best performance on modern macOS systems—especially if you're using this dock with macOS only. If you need to use the drive on both Windows and macOS, it's recommended to format it in exFAT instead.

- 4 Click **Launchpad**, type **Disk Utility** in the search bar, and open the app.

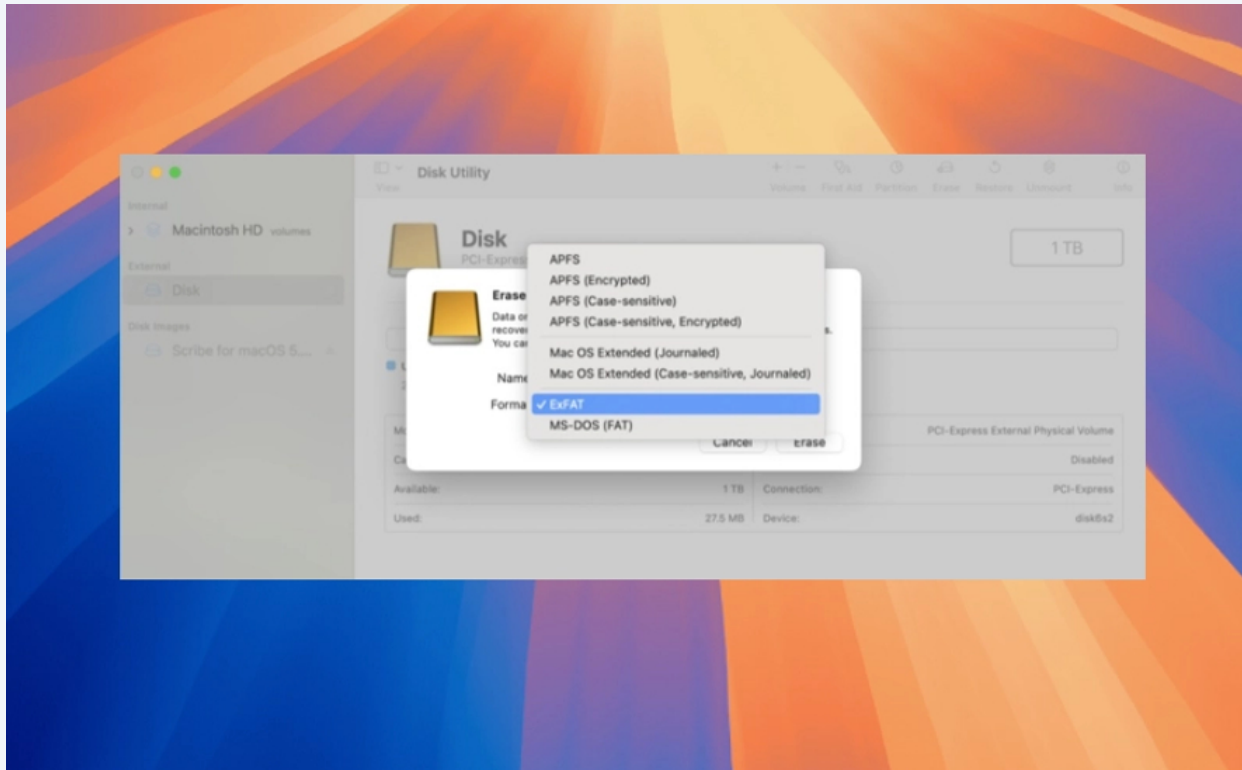


- 5 In Disk Utility, **select your M.2 SSD disk** from the left sidebar, then click the **Erase** icon at the top.



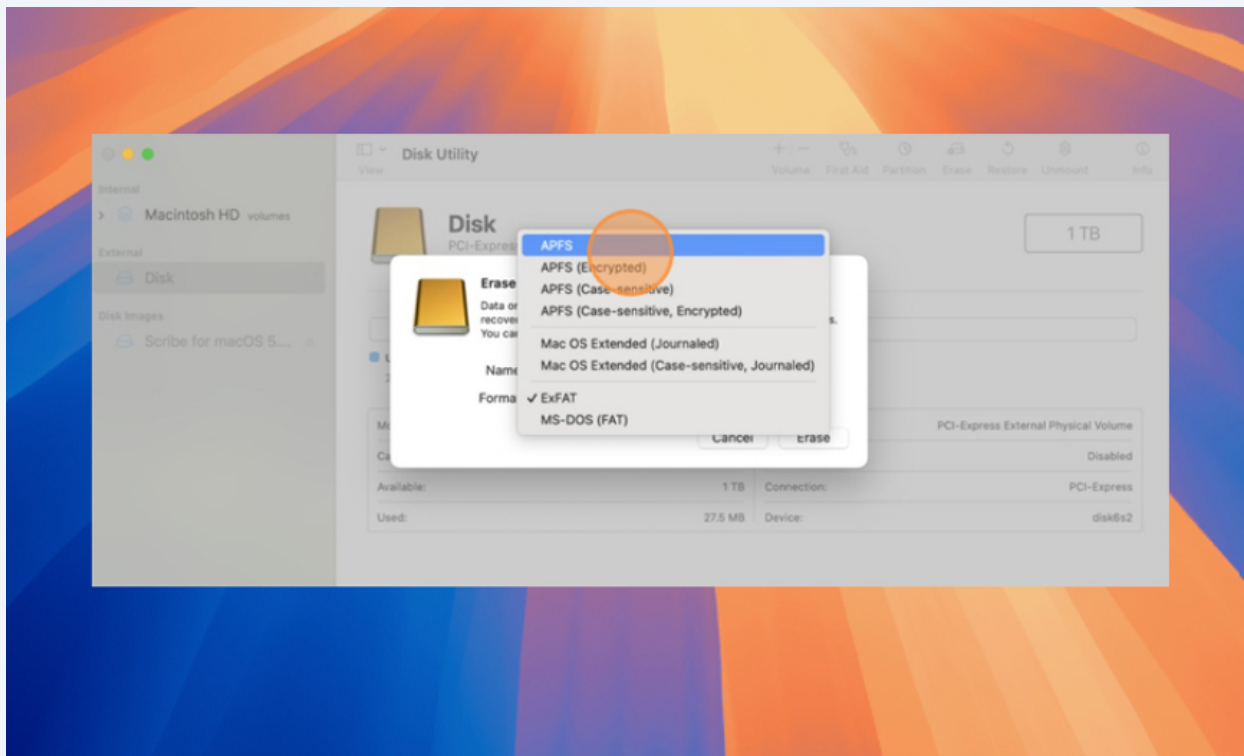
6

In the dialog box, change the Format **from exFAT (cross-platform: Windows + macOS) to APFS (macOS only)**



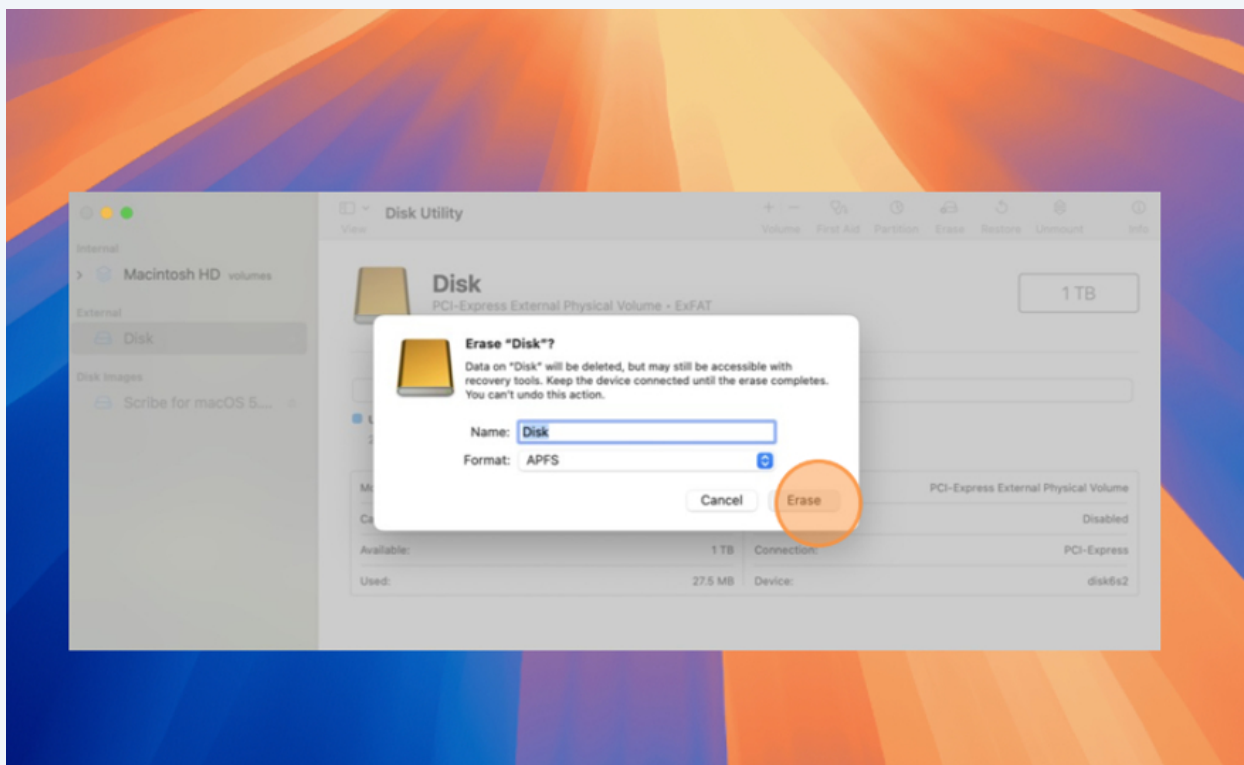
7

In the dialog box, **select APFS (macOS only)**, which is recommended for the best performance on modern macOS systems



8

Note: Formatting will erase all data on the drive, so make sure to back up important files first. Click **Erase** to begin formatting.



9

Wait until the process completes, then **click Done**.

