

Format the M.2 SSD for Windows

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Format the M.2 SSD after installation in the dock. Here are the recommendations:

- **Windows-only:** Use **NTFS for optimized performance** with file permissions.
- **Cross-platform (Windows + macOS):** Use **exFAT** for compatibility on both.

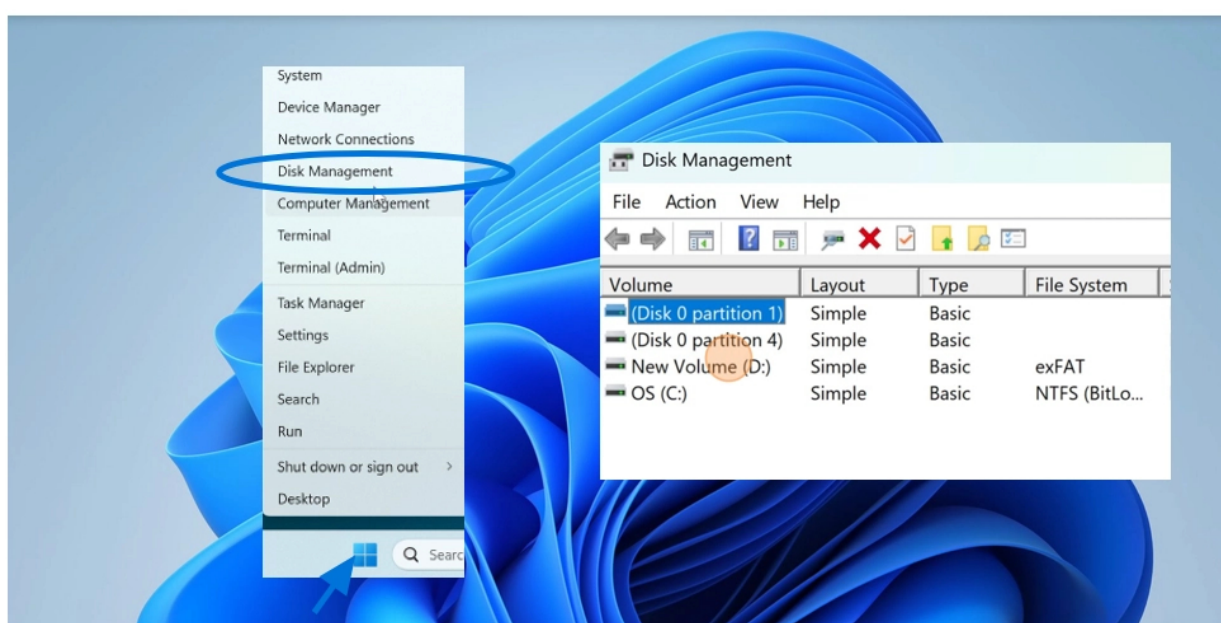
Usage Scenario	Recommended Format	Notes
Cross-platform (Windows + macOS)	exFAT	Works seamlessly on both systems with full read/write access
Windows-only	NTFS	Optimized for Windows performance; supports file permissions and security

2

Here are the steps to format your M.2 SSD to **NTFS, which is recommended for Windows-only use.**

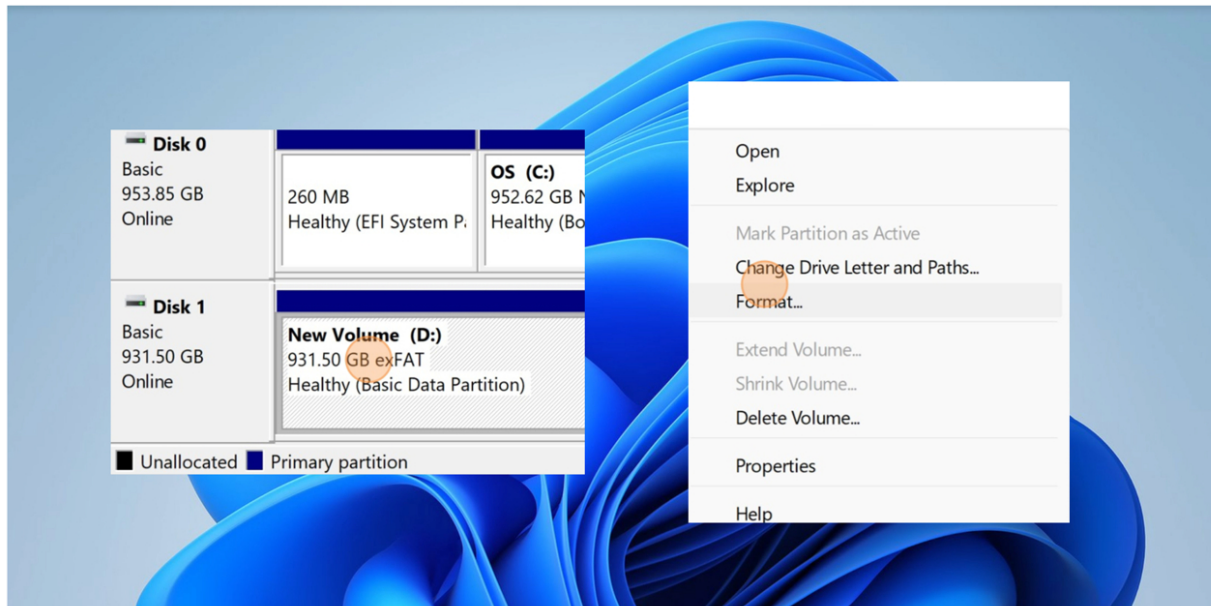
3

Right-click the Start button (or press Windows + X) and select **Disk Management**. Find your M.2 SSD drive and right-click on it.



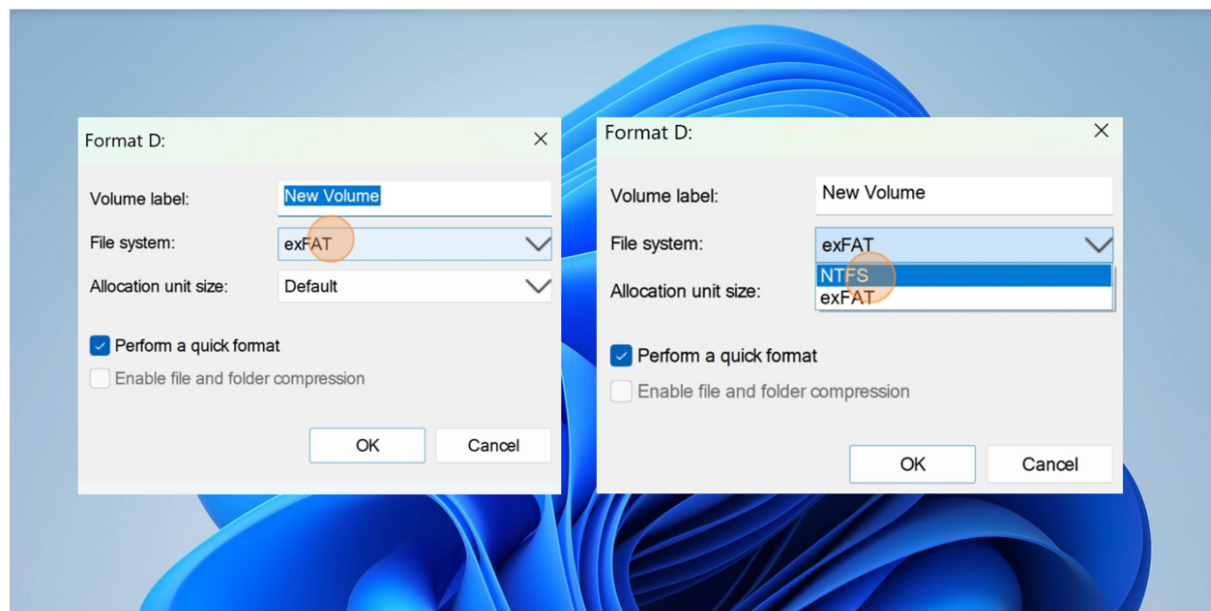
4

Right-click your M.2 SSD drive, **select** *Format*, and ensure you've backed up all files on the drive beforehand.



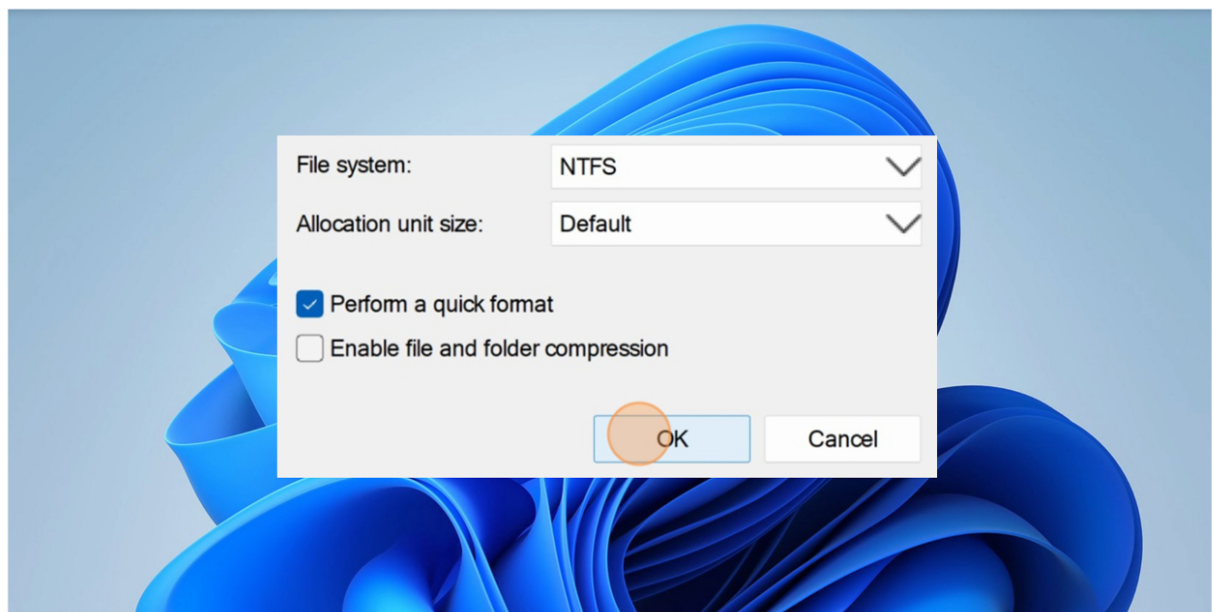
5

In the Format dialog, open the *File system* drop-down menu and select **NTFS** (instead of exFAT) to **optimize performance on Windows**.



6

Select **OK to format the disk** to **NTFS**. Your disk will be formatted, so make sure all files are backed up first.



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Your M.2 SSD has been formatted in NTFS, the recommended format for Windows-only usage. Thank you.