

## Tech News: USB 3.0



Without a doubt, USB (Universal Serial Bus) is probably one of the greatest innovations of all time. Hundreds of peripherals such as printers, scanners and digital cameras can now be “plug-and-play” with your home desktop/notebook computer system. USB devices can generally be installed within 10 minutes or less, often without the need for an installation disk. The versatile USB port is intended to replace many legacy computer interfaces such as serial/parallel ports.

USB 3.0 is the latest release in the USB family and runs ten times faster than USB 2.0. Like the upgrade from USB 1.1 to 2.0, the new 3.0 connectors and cables will be physically and functionally compatible with hardware from the previous USB standards, so users can adopt the new interface without having to replace their USB 2.0 devices.

See the comparison table below:

	Transfer Speed
<b>USB 1.1</b>	1.5 Mbit/s (Low-Speed)
<b>USB 2.0</b>	480 Mbit/s (Hi-Speed)
<b>USB 3.0</b>	4.8 Gb/s (Super Speed)

As you can see, the performance enhancement is dramatic. Intel has demonstrated that it only takes 70 seconds to transfer a 27GB HD movie file using USB 3.0 technology. However, remember that you’re only going to be able to take advantage of this speed boost if your device can read or write that fast. As you would probably guess, solid state drives (SSDs), which are much faster than conventional hard disks, will certainly benefit from this improvement. Think of USB 3.0 as a huge pipe and your hard disk drive as a water pump. The pump (your HDD) needs to be powerful enough to pump water (your data) through the pipe (USB 3.0) in order to enjoy performance gain.

Not only faster than previous versions, USB 3.0 cables can carry more power. Devices like mobile phones, MP3 players, and digital cameras can now all be used at the same time with an unpowered USB hub.

You will start to see computers equipped with USB 3.0 ports arriving in late 2009, with consumer products using the new specification starting to appear the following year. External hard drives, flash drives, digital cameras and personal media players are some of the devices that will receive a full USB 3.0 adaptation in 2010.

Here at PEAK, we are proud to bring the latest technology to our customers at a competitive price. For the latest USB 3.0 developments, please visit us at [www.peakhardware.com](http://www.peakhardware.com)

