

## Flash Drives

Did you know that *Flash Drives, Thumb Drives, USB Drives, Jump Drives* all describe the same device? They are small devices that allow you to save files, pictures and transfer files from one computer to another. They are slightly larger than a stick of gum (sometimes smaller), yet many of these devices can carry an entire year's worth of information. Portability allows people to travel with them almost anywhere!!

That same portability is what makes these small devices so potentially dangerous. Losing them can be so easy, making the information you carry on them very vulnerable. Always be mindful of any work, financial records, student records, etc. that you might have saved on a Thumb Drive because if anyone finds it, they could potentially get access to all the data you have saved on it.



While these are amazing little devices that continue to be very popular, you need to remember that if you damage them in anyway all your information is potentially gone.

Here are some tips when using these small devices:

- Be careful of the information you choose to carry on it;
- Add your name or something that helps you identify your device from others;
- Be careful of the small end that plugs into the computer, if that gets damaged, bent or broken the drive is then usually useless. If your device came with a cover top to protect it when not in use, use it;
- When you want to pull the drive out of the computer make sure you eject it first;  
(*Tutorial can be found on how to remove a thumb drive device on our Tutorial page*)

If you ever find a Thumb Drive, please turn it into the SSND IT staff at your nearest location. **Never** plug it into a computer to find out who it belongs to. It could be a thumb drive that contains malware that can be harmful to your computer.