

Seagate Backup and SCANDISK

The amount of space used on a hard drive reported by SCANDISK and the amount to be backed up reported by our software will never coincide.

SCANDISK reports the amount of *used disk space* by multiplying the number of used clusters by the allocation unit size. For example according to SCANDISK, a one byte file takes up 32K on a large hard drive where 32k is the allocation unit size.

To verify this, do the following:

1. Do a SCANDISK and record the amount of space used by USER FILES, and the SIZE OF ALLOCATION UNIT (cluster size).
2. Create a new file that's just a couple of bytes in size.
3. Do a SCANDISK and compare the USER FILES figure to the figure recorded previously. Note that it has not increased by a just a couple of bytes, but by the size of a cluster.

The backup program simply reads the directory table and adds the size of the files together. Cluster size plays no part in this calculation. Who is right? Both are correct! The backup program reports the exact file byte count, and SCANDISK tells you how much of the disk is being used...not necessarily the same amount as the file sizes.

This means that SCANDISK should not be used as a comparison tool to determine if the correct amount of data is being backed up.

Note: Another difference in the SCANDISK file count versus the backup program file count is that SCANDISK does not allow for files excluded from logging by the Backup software.