



WinDLG v1.27

These release notes provide information on WD WinDLG™ Software product update.

These release notes provide information on:

- *[Version 1.27](#)*
- *[Version 1.26](#)*
- *[Version 1.25](#)*
- *[Version 1.24](#)*
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- *[Installation Procedure](#)*

Version 1.27:

Resolved Issues:

- Resolved a problem in which the Write Zeros test would fail with a "Delete Partitions error" on Windows XP when a drive has no partitions.

Version 1.26:

Resolved Issues:

- Resolved a problem that caused SMART Attributes to be reported improperly for external drives connected via USB or IEEE 1394 (FireWire).
- Resolved a problem in which WinDlg may display an inaccurate Estimated Time Remaining for the Quick Test or the Extended Test.
- Updated WinDlg's standard help file and SMART attributes help file to fix inaccuracies, misspellings, grammar, and reflect changes in how tests operate.
- Updated WinDlg's icon file

Version 1.25:

Resolved Issues:

- Added support for SSHD and Black² drives.
- Added support for more SMART attributes.

Version 1.24:

Resolved Issues:

- Added support for SAS drive serial numbers.
- Re-inserted the Cable Test but removed the read and write I/O operations.

Version 1.22:

Resolved Issues:

- Added support for SAS drive Serial Numbers.
- Removed the Cable Test operations.

Version 1.21:

Resolved Issues:

- Added Support for Advanced Format drives.
- Resolved false failure when writing zeroes to GPT partitions.
- Resolved false failures occurring in Cable Test.

Version 1.17:

Resolved Issues:

- Supports all Windows 7 32/64-bit versions, all Vista 32/64-bit versions, and all Windows XP 32/64-bit versions.

Program Description:

The WinDLG program searches for and verifies the status of Western Digital drives. By accessing the Data Lifeguard information stored on the hard drive, the program is able to quickly and efficiently verify the status of the drive. If any errors are logged or found, it provides an option to return the drive to defect-free status through the Extended Test repair option.

QUICK TEST:

The Quick Test is designed to intelligently gather and verify all of the Data Lifeguard information contained on the drive. The Quick Test can determine with a high level of confidence that a drive is defect-free in a short amount of time. For maximum confidence, the Extended Test is recommended. The Quick Test option may not be available on earlier IDE drives, SCSI drives, and external drives.

EXTENDED TEST:

For most computers, the WinDLG Extended Test requires between 30 minutes to multiple hours to test one drive. Larger drives take longer to test. The performance of the computer also affects the test time. This is a non-destructive test except when the repair function is selected when bad sectors are detected.

WRITE ZEROS:

This option can be used to erase operating systems and file systems. The QUICK ERASE option writes zeros to the first and last million sectors and the FULL ERASE option writes zeros to the entire drive and may take hours to complete (depending on the drive size and system performance).

VIEW TEST RESULTS:

The current test results can be displayed with this function.

TO RUN THE PROGRAM:

BACK UP DATA:

Before running WinDLG, it is recommended that users back up all data for all hard drives. This utility may write to the drive during the re-certification process. As with all utilities that write to a drive, it is recommended that you back up your data before proceeding.

TO TEST EACH DRIVE:

Double click on one of the physical drives in the list to display the test menu. Select a test and click the Start button to start the test. At the end of the test, a status is displayed. For the EXTENDED TEST, if bad sectors are detected, a repair option will be provided to fix any correctable errors. However, data stored in the bad sectors will be lost, thus this function must be used with caution.

The SMART status is queried and displayed when the program starts. The SMART status can be PASS, FAIL, or Not Available. Click on the SMART status column to see detailed SMART disk information.

Installation Procedure:

For Windows:

1. Download the Windows Data Lifeguard Diagnostics, windlg_v1_25.zip.
2. Extract and run the program, WinDLG.exe. If you are running Windows Vista (or later), you will need to **Right-Click** on the **WinDLG.exe** file and choose **Run As Administrator**.
3. Read and accept the license agreement to continue.
4. On the main program screen, there are two windows. In the top window, you will see the drives in your system that are available for testing. The model number, serial number, capacity, and SMART status of each drive will be displayed. In the bottom window, the partition information for the selected drive will be displayed.
5. Highlight a drive and select the icon on the top row to run tests or view SMART status.
6. When you select the run tests icon, the "DLGDIAG - Select an Option" window appears.
7. You will see the following options:
 - QUICK TEST – Performs a SMART drive quick self-test to gather and verify the Data Lifeguard information contained on the drive.
 - EXTENDED TEST - Performs a Full Media Scan to detect bad sectors. This test may take several hours to complete depending on the size of the drive.
 - WRITE ZEROS - Writes zeros to the drive with options of Full Erase and Quick Erase. The drive's file system and data will be lost.
 - VIEW TEST RESULT - Displays the latest test results.
8. Select the test you wish to perform and click the Start button.
9. After the test completes, you will be notified with a pass/fail message. Click the Close button.