

## Clone Panel

This panel may be used to create a clone of the selected media onto a separate drive.

**Note: Cloning is not required in order to scan and recover files with Data Rescue.**

However, there are some special circumstances in which you may wish to clone your bad drive, and these are explained below.

### *Preliminaries*

The process of cloning obviously requires a separate drive as the clone target, and it must be at least as large as the drive being cloned. If you intend to clone your bad disk drive in order to scan it for files with Data Rescue rather than scanning your bad drive directly, please remember that you will need another hard drive besides that to use for your recovered files and Data Rescue's temporary files.

The source for the clone (the one to read from) is the drive or volume that you have chosen in the top panel. This panel has a separate Select... button that you use to select the target (the one to write to).

**Be extremely careful to choose the target so that you don't write to the wrong drive or volume.**

### *Reasons to Clone*

Most of these cases in which you would want to clone the drive apply only if your drive has hardware problems and has trouble reading data.

1. Save wear and tear on your bad disk drive. If a disk drive has known hardware problems, especially if it makes "funny noises" when it's being accessed, there is a chance that repeated accessing of the drive may cause some additional damage and destroy some additional data on the drive. Because of this, if you have very critical data on such a drive, cloning onto a good drive will reduce the chance of causing more damage to your drive, and will minimize data loss. Once the clone has completed successfully, all the data that is readable data on the bad drive will be present on the cloned drive. You would then proceed to use Data Rescue to scan the cloned drive for files in the normal way.
2. If the drive problems "come and go", or are temperature dependent. Some drive problems are such that the drive work OK for a while after power up, but eventually start showing up after the drive heats up. Cloning is a faster operation than scanning for files, because it only requires a single pass through the whole media. If you suspect your bad drive has this sort of problem, then cloning may provide the best chance of getting the data off the drive while it is still working properly.
3. In rare cases, the cloned drive itself may mount and be readable. One of our customers found this to be the case on his drive. The effect may be due to time dependent problems, as mentioned above. This case is expected to be rare, but if you have gone to the trouble of cloning your media, it is at least worth trying it afterward to see if the system will mount it.

