



PARAGON Technologie GmbH, Systemprogrammierung

Heinrich-von-Stephan-Str. 5c ● 79100 Freiburg, Germany

Tel. +49 (0) 761 59018201 ● Fax +49 (0) 761 59018130

Internet www.paragon-software.com ● Email sales@paragon-software.com

ACCESSING LARGE HARD DISK DRIVES IN WINDOWS 7

CASE STUDY

ACCESSING LARGE HDD IN WINDOWS 7 WITH INTEL STORAGE DRIVER – NOT A PROBLEM WITH PARAGON GPT LOADER

Hardware manufacturers are producing disk drives with geometric increases in disk capacity compared to a few years ago, broadening their appeal and functionality for a wide spectrum of end users. The new 3TB drives are ideal for storing large files such as HD-video, archived images and music in lossless compression format. They can be used as external storage devices alongside desktops and laptops, or inserted inside workstations and home computers.

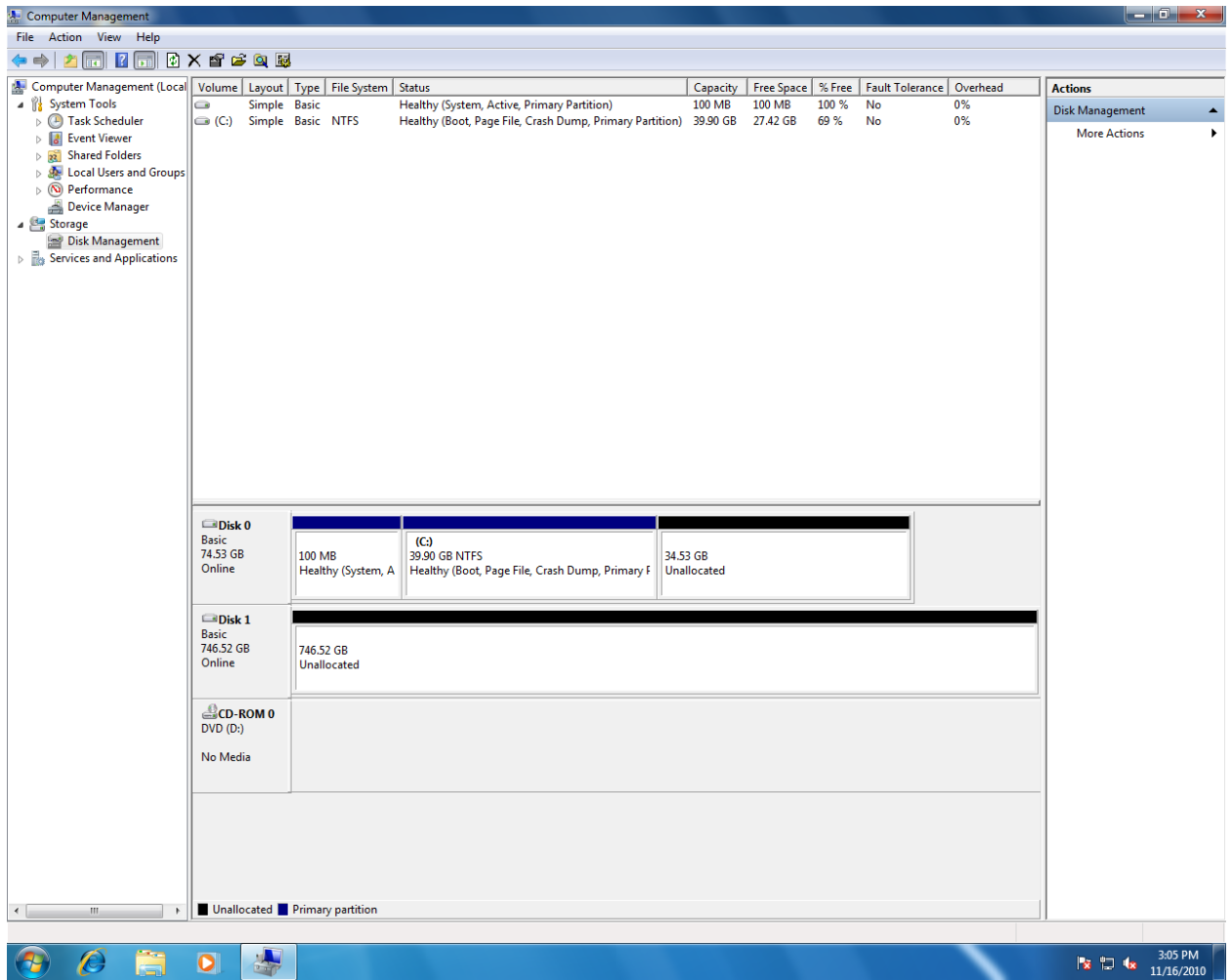
When technology improves as quickly as it has with storage capacity on HDDs, the surrounding software technology often has to catch up. There may be compatibility issues with older hardware or legacy systems that cannot be easily updated or left behind. It may not be budget-conscious to simply purchase hardware upgrades if the new hardware is incompatible with existing systems. Why alter a well-tuned and familiar software environment if there are alternatives to new hardware integration?

3TB drives appear to be supported by new Windows operating systems (Vista and later) at first glance, but other system software could limit their support. One particular situation includes Intel Storage Matrix Drivers for HDD controllers, which will not allow full access to the entire 3TB in all systems where present, and occur in 99% of systems with Intel chipset-based motherboards. This 32-bit software simply cannot access beyond the 2TB limit on the disk, thus causing the majority of the disk to remain unavailable.

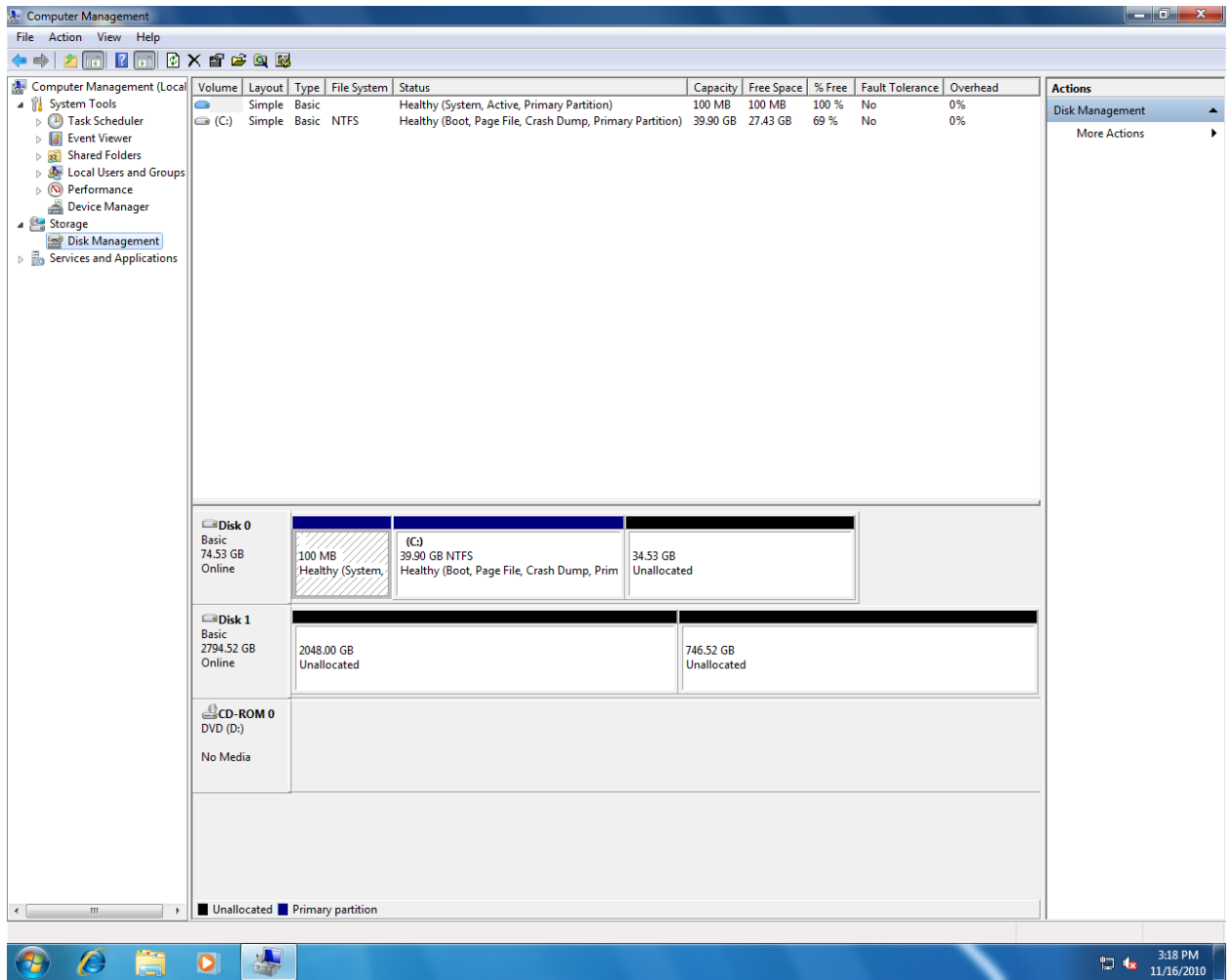
There are three options for users running Windows Vista or a later OS who want a new 3TB drive. First, the large HDD can be used as a small (1TB or less) drive by just plugging it into the computer, which would mean paying for storage that cannot be used. Second, the 3TB drive can be plugged to an additional HDD controller, increasing the cost of purchases for your system and the risk of violating the hardware guarantee terms, especially for brand-name computers.

A third cost- and resource-effective option for Windows 7 users is now available -- the use of a specially designed driver that overrides native Intel drivers and supports 3TB drives.

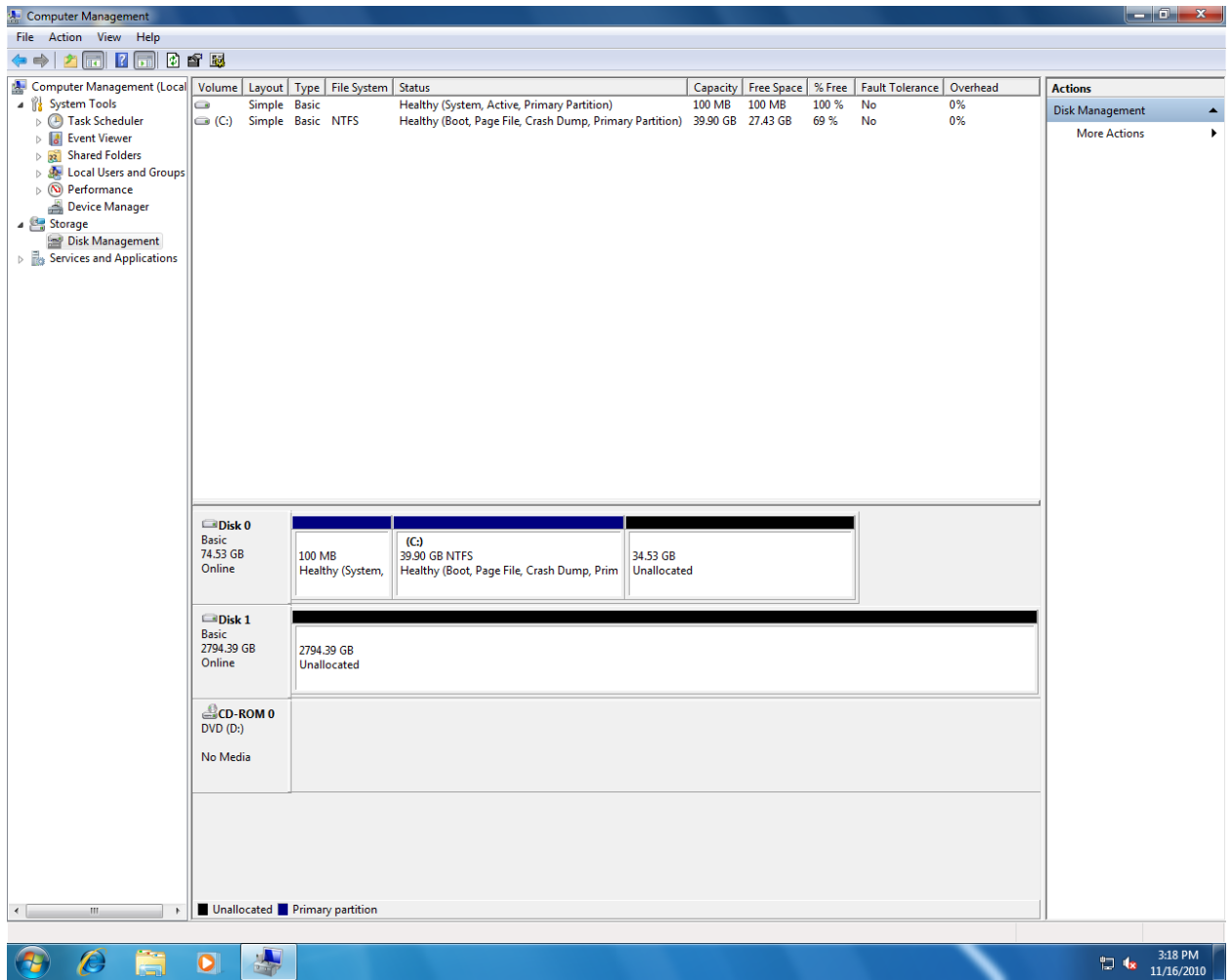
Full, unrestricted access to 3TB drives under Windows Vista and later can be achieved by installing the Paragon GPT Loader driver.



The graphic above shows a 3TB hard disk drive attached to a Windows 7 system using the Intel Driver. The disk is not fully available (only 768GB is accessible).



The graphic above shows a 3TB hard disk drive attached to a Windows 7 system using the Paragon GPT Loader Driver. It is partitioned with the MBR partitions table, which has separated the space into two blocks -- the last one remains inaccessible.



Here the 3TB disk is partitioned with the GPT partitioning scheme in the system with the Paragon GPT Loader driver. Note that all space is fully available.