

SmartCache Plus FAQ

Q1. What is the current shipping firmware and BIOS version for my Smartcache Plus adapter?

A1. Use the chart listed below to determine the firmware and BIOS versions for your model of SmartCache Plus adapter.

Adapter Model Firmware Version BIOS Version

PM2001 3.G0 1.K0

PM2011B 3.G0 1.K0

PM2012A 3.G0 1.K0

PM2012B 3.G0 1.K0

PM3011 6.FF 2.H0

Q2. How can I determine if my SmartCache Plus adapter is operating in WD1003 emulation mode?

A2. When a SmartCache Plus adapter is operating in WD1003 emulation mode it will display a message during the Power On Self Test to the right of the hard drive information indicating the word "emulated". This message only appears when the adapter's BIOS ROM is enabled. A SmartCache Plus adapter can operate in WD1003 emulation mode with or without the BIOS ROM. To verify WD1003 emulation mode operation when the BIOS ROM is disabled, check your hard disk drive types in system CMOS. If a drive type is defined and your system does not have a MFM, RLL, ESDI or IDE hard drive installed, your SmartCache Plus adapter is operating in WD1003 emulation mode.

Q3. If I upgrade from a SmartCache Plus adapter to a new SCSI adapter will I have to reinstall my operating system and data?

A3. If you upgrade to a new model of DPT SCSI adapter, in most cases the upgrade will not require a reinstallation. The following are examples of some situations that would require a reinstallation and restore of data. Always backup your system prior to modifying the mirroring status of your SmartCache Plus adapter or upgrading your adapter.

1) If your SmartCache Plus adapter has a mirrored array enabled, the mirroring must be disabled before switching the hard drives to the new SCSI adapter. This applies whether upgrading to a newer model of DPT or a non-DPT SCSI adapter. If upgrading to a newer model of DPT adapter that will support RAID, the mirrored array can then be reestablished once the adapter upgrade is completed.

2) If your SmartCache Plus adapter is operating in WD1003 emulation mode, the reinstallation of your operating system and a restore your data will be required.

3) If you are switching to a non-DPT adapter and your hard drive(s) is/are 1 gigabyte or larger, a reinstallation of your operating system and data may be required. Since the translation banding scheme of a SCSI hard drives physical blocks into cylinder, head and sector per track information vary from one SCSI adapter vendor to another, the non-DPT adapter may not use the same translation scheme. A SCSI adapter must be able to locate the hard drives boot block, in order for the hard drive to be bootable. If the translation banding scheme is different on the new SCSI adapter, the partition must be recreated and formatted for the hard drive to be bootable.

Q4. If I upgrade to a newer SmartCache III, SmartCache IV, SmartRAID III or SmartRAID IV controller, can I still use any of the modules from my SmartCache Plus adapter.

A4. Unfortunately no, SmartCache Plus adapters use memory modules based on DRAM, where all of our current products use SIMM memory. Additionally, the DM401x (Disk Mirroring module) was enhanced and replaced by the DM4000 (used w/SmartCache III adapters) & the RC4040/RC4041 (used w/SmartCache IV adapters).

Q5. Will my SmartCache Plus adapter support an x capacity drive?

A5. The SmartCache Plus adapters will support hard drives up to 2 gigabytes under DOS and any operating systems without a DPT specific drivers. Hard Drives larger than 2 gigabyte are supported as non-boot drives under operating systems that use DPT specific drivers, i. e. Novell NetWare, SCO UNIX 3.2.4.2 and higher, Windows NT, OS/2, etc.