

How to format a drive with ReFS in Windows 10

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ReFS file system

ReFS stands for Resilient File System. ReFS's codename is "**Protogon**". It improves NTFS in some aspects, while removing some features.

ReFS is for file server only. In Windows 10, in fact, it's only for server operating systems.

The Windows 10 Creators Update has an updated version of ReFS. In previous Windows 10 releases, the ReFS version was 1.2. Version Windows 10 1703 comes with ReFS version 3.2. For compatibility reasons, it is still possible to format the drive with ReFS 1.2.

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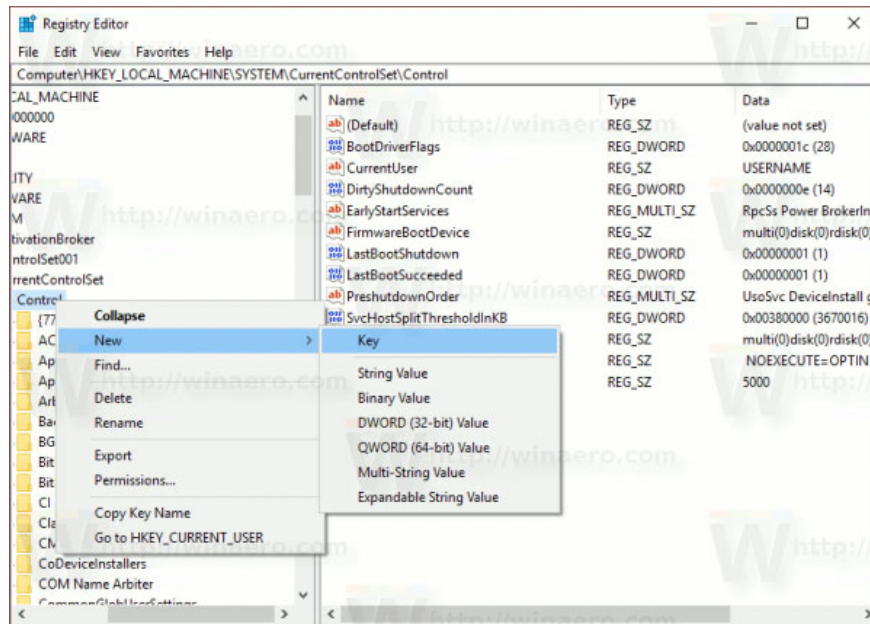
To format a drive with ReFS in Windows 10, do the following.

1. Open Registry Editor.
2. Navigate to the following registry key:

```
HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINESYSTEMCurrentControlSetControl
```

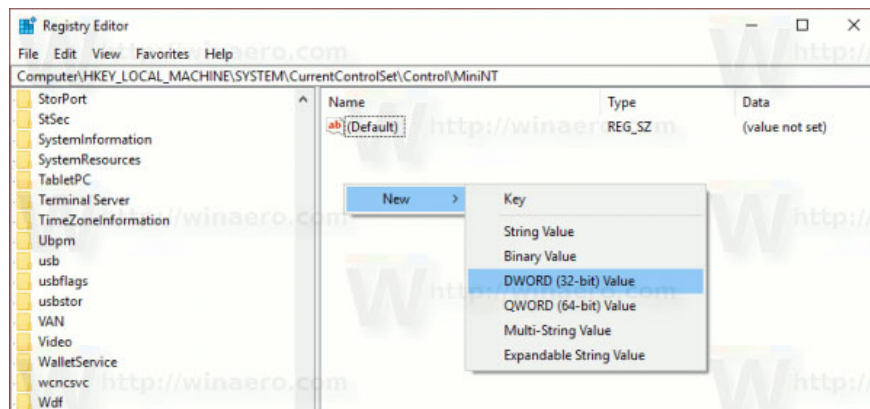
3. Create a new key named **MiniNT** here to get the following path:

```
HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINESYSTEMCurrentControlSetControlMiniNT
```

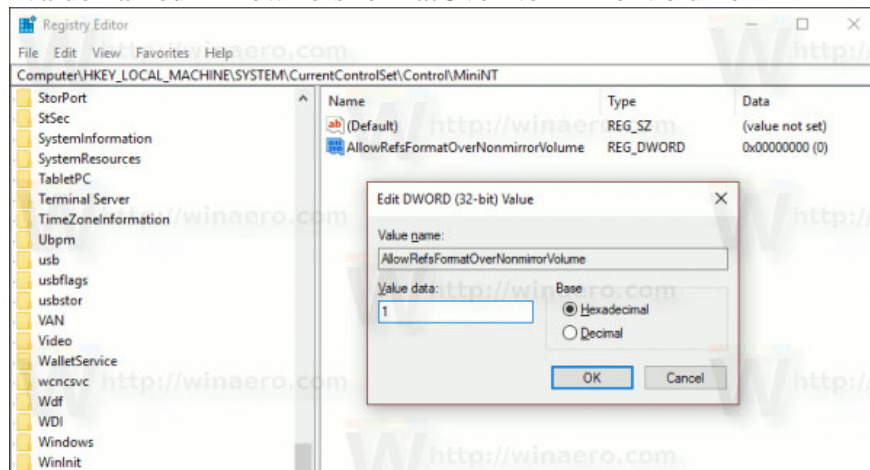


Create a new key named MiniNT

4. Here, you should create a new DWORD value named **"AllowRefsFormatOverNonmirrorVolume"**. The value data of this parameter must be **0** or **1**. Set it to **1** to unlock the ReFS feature.



Create a new DWORD value named "AllowRefsFormatOverNonmirrorVolume"



Set the parameter value data to 1

5. Close the Registry Editor application.

6. Now, execute the following command to format the drive:

```
format z: /u /fs:refs /i:enable
```

This command will format drive **Z:** with **ReFS 3.2** . Use the correct drive letter before continuing.

```
format z: /u fs:refsv1 /i:enable
```

This command will format the **Z:** drive with an old version of **ReFS 1.2** .

Note : The **/ i: enable option** is required for any ReFS format command. It activates the Integrity Streams Recovering feature.

Now, delete the MiniNT key you created. This registry key will cause a problem in Windows 10 that makes the operating system "think" that it is running in the Windows Preinstallation Environment - WinPE (like the Windows 10 Setup program). Please delete it after you have formatted the drive with ReFS.

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