HOW-TO-FORMAT LINUX RED HAT E5 USB HARD DRIVE 4/17/2013

How to format the redhat E5 Linux swappable hard drive.

1. The drive location is /dev/sdb1.
   a. sdb1 will depend on the USB port and if other usb devices are installed etc.

   **WARNING DO NOT USE sda,sda1 or sda2!!!!**

   b. When in doubt mount the drive and type: dmesg | tail

2. Open a command window in root

3. Type “fdisk /dev/sdb1” (type “cntrl-c” at any time to abort)
   a. Enter “p” at the prompt to list any old partitions
      i. **IF ANY partition has the ‘boot’ column starred then exit FDISK immediately!**
   b. Enter “d” to delete any old partitions
      i. **IF ANY partition has the ‘boot’ column starred then exit FDISK immediately!**
         ii. Enter 1 to delete the first partition and then repeat for all other partitions
   c. Enter “p” to check if all partitions are deleted
   d. Enter “n” to create a new partition
      i. Enter “p” for primary
      ii. Enter 1 for just one new partition
      iii. Return “Enter” for default cylinders
   e. When complete enter “p” to check partition
      i. If necessary enter “t” for the filesystem and the “83” for the default linux “ext2”
      ii. More filesystems can be seen by entering “L”
   f. Type a “w” to write the partition

4. Type “mkfs -V -t ext2 /dev/sdb1” (makes the filesystem/format)
   a. Wait until format is complete

5. Type “fsck -f -y /dev/sdb1” (check the drive)

6. Type “chmod 777 /dev/sdb1” to set the permissions.

7. Change label type “e2label /dev/sdb1 my_label”

8. Unplug (turn off) the drive and then reconnect.
   a. Wait until drive mounts
   b. You may need to reboot

9. Disk will mount as /media/my_label