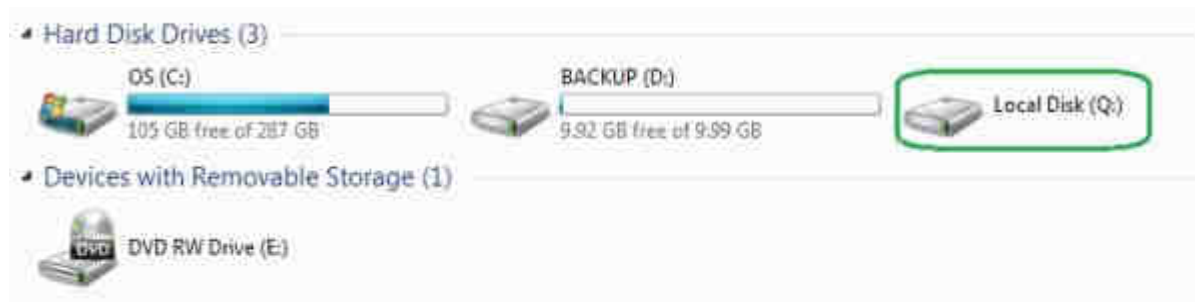


## Office 2010 Beta adds Local Disk (Q:) to the system

<http://technicalmeltdown.net/2009/12/18/office-2010-beta-adds-local-disk-q-to-the-system/>

I've recently noticed that my system has a new local disk, named Q:



Local Disk (Q:) - Where did it come from?

While I was curious as to how this disk came about, given that no one else uses my computer, I wasn't too bothered about it. Last night, while working with a friend, I was asked a question – *“What's that Local Disk (Q:)? I've got one on my system too and it popped out of nowhere.”*

Naturally, I started digging.

The first place I checked was the Disk Management Utility and what I found there was weird.

The disk isn't there, but then it is.

Volume	Layout	Type	File System	Status
	Simple	Basic		Healthy (OEM Partition)
BACKUP (D:)	Simple	Basic	NTFS	Healthy (Primary Partition)
OS (C:)	Simple	Basic	NTFS	Healthy (System, Boot, Page File, Active, Crash Dump, Primary P

Disk Management Utility - Q: is not there

I tried to open the disk via Windows Explorer and got an *“Access is Denied”* error.



Access is Denied

I then took a look in the registry, checking **HKLM\SYSTEM\MountedDevices** and as expected, Q: was there.

HKLM\SYSTEM\MountedDevices\Q:

REG\_BINARY

HKLM\SYSTEM\MountedDevices - Q: is there

So what is this mysterious Q: that's there, inaccessible and not a partition of any existing physical drives?

At this point, I was totally lost. It still hasn't hit me that this drive appeared right after installing Office 2010 Beta.

I continued digging and the answer was found on the [Microsoft Office 2010 Engineering Blog's](#) post on a new feature in Office 2010 – [Click-to-Run](#) . This new drive that has appeared in the system, is part of the all new "Click-to-Run" feature in Office 2010.

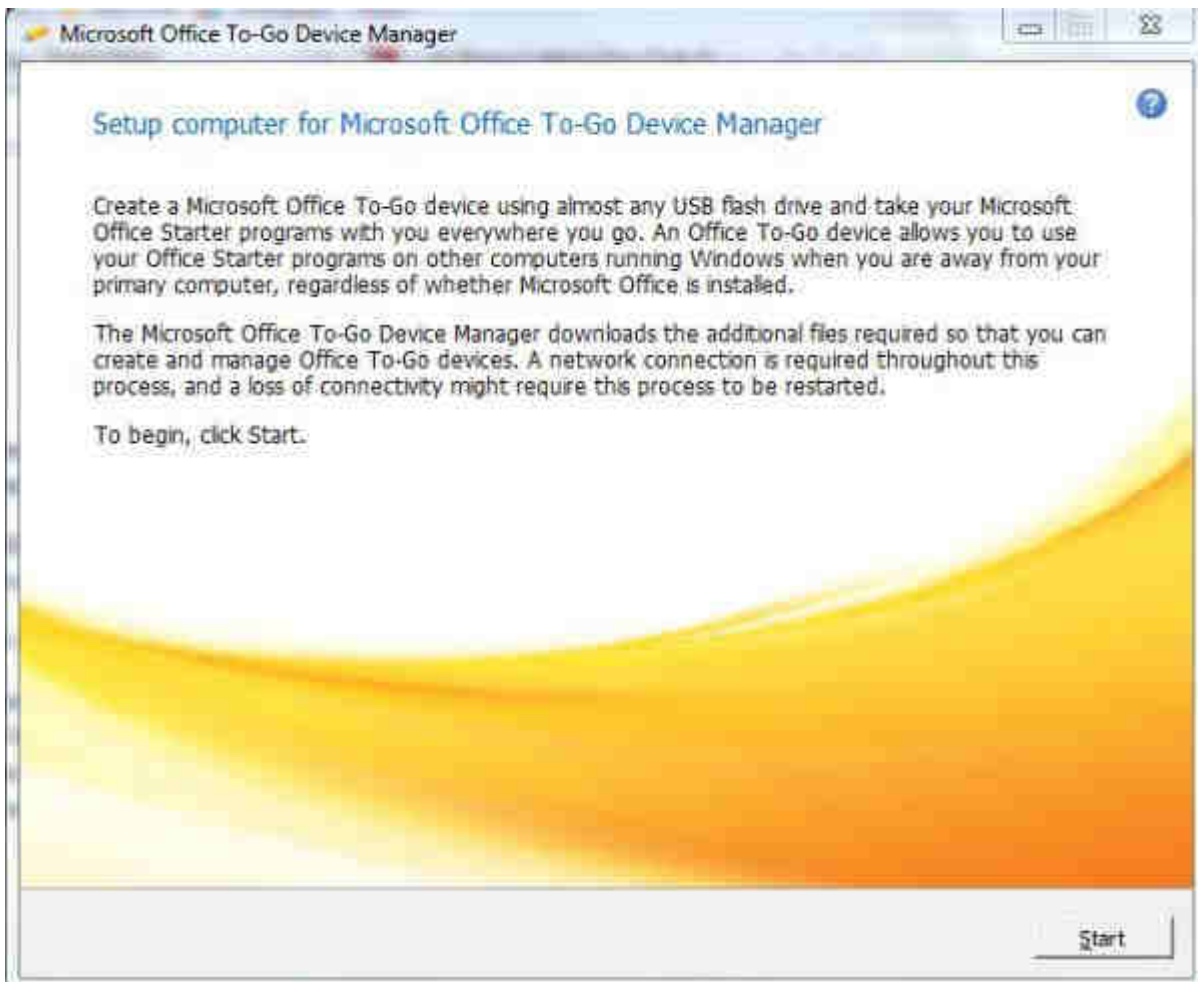
Office 2010 Click-to-Run is a virtualized application that is stored on Microsoft's servers. Whenever one launches any of the Office applications as "Click-to-Run", the system will download the necessary components to the virtual disk (Q:).



Office 2010 Click-to-Run - Downloading files

How does this benefit us?

Easy. Firstly, no updates to install. All updates will be installed on Microsoft's servers and we'll always have the most up to date version of Office 2010. In addition to this, since Office 2010 is installed on a server, we'll be able to take Office 2010 with us anywhere we go. As long as there's an internet connection, we will be able to use all Office applications that we are licensed to use. This is made possible by both ["Click-to-Run"](#) and the Microsoft Office To-Go Device Manager.



## Microsoft Office to go Device Manager

So that's it. More detailed information on "Click-to-Run" and the "Microsoft Office To-Go Device Manager" is available on the [Microsoft Office 2010 Engineering Blog](#).

Now you can rest easy knowing that the drive is there for a reason.

## Hide Local Disk (Q:) added by Office 2010 Beta

<http://technicalmeltdown.net/2009/12/26/hide-local-disk-q-added-by-office-2010-beta/>

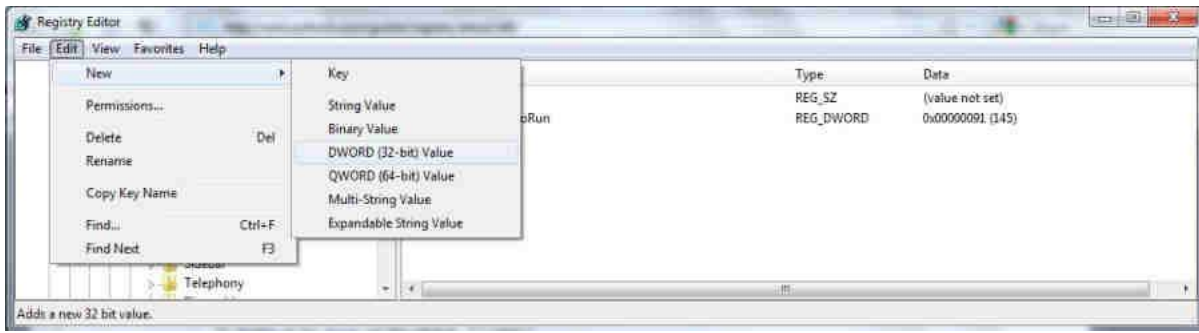
Those who have read my [previous post](#) on Office 2010's "Click-To-Run" feature would understand why Local Disk (Q:) was added to the system. While it is an important part of Office 2010 Beta's "Click-To-Run" feature, it can get quite irritating when you accidentally click it while browsing through the system.

Here's how to hide it.

Firstly, bring up the registry editor by clicking Start > Run or pressing "Windows Key+R" then enter "regedit" without the quotes and click "OK".

Next, browse to the following registry key:

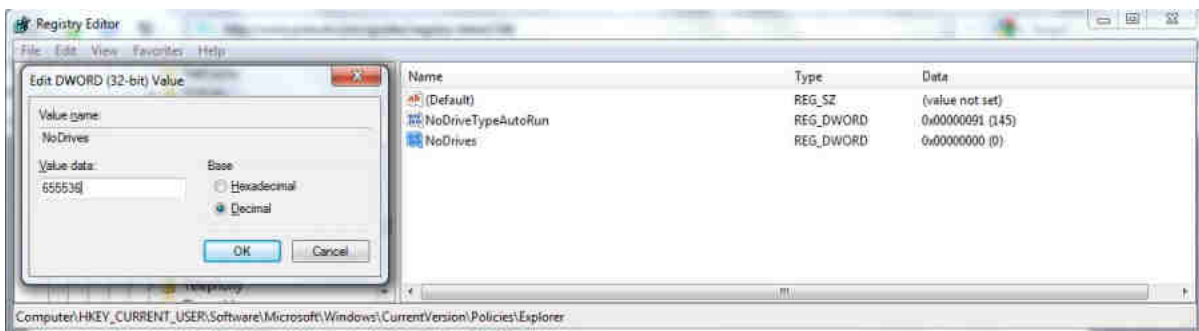
***HKCUSoftwareMicrosoftWindowsCurrentVersionPoliciesExplorer***



Add the following registry key by clicking Edit > New > DWORD (32-bit) Value:

Value Name: NoDrives

Value Data (Decimal): 65536



DWORD Value added

Once this value has been created, click OK and close the registry editor.

**Please note that this fix will only work in the user account you're currently logged into.**

To apply this fix machine-wide, make changes to the following registry key:

***HKLM\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Policies\Explorer***

Alternatively, you can also create Binary values as described in Microsoft's [KB555438](#).

There you go. This should put an end to the "Access is denied" error message while maintaining Office 2010 Beta's "Click-To-Run" functionality.