P E R S I S T O R
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Data Acquisition and Storage Solutions for Industry and Science

Persistor Instruments recommends Western Digital 4600 and 4500 series CompactFlash

July 2011

Since 2005 Persistor Instruments has exclusively recommended and sold Western Digital (formerly Silicon Systems) 3500 series SiliconDrive Compact Flash cards for use with the Persistor CF1, CF2 and CF8 (V1 and V2) products. Western Digital discontinued this series of memory cards in March 2011.

Persistor now recommends the Western Digital SiliconDrive II CompactFlash for use with the Persistor CF1, CF2 and CF8 (V1 and V2). Technical support will be limited to problems using these memory cards:

    SSD-C01GI-4600
    SSD-C02GI-4600
    SSD-C04GI-4600
    (the upper memory size limit for the 4600 series is 4GB)
    SSD-C08GI-4500
    SSD-C16GI-4500

In our initial testing, we have found the new cards to consume more current than the 3500 series:

Card Idle	100 to 600 uA more than the 3500 series
Read	typically 25 mA more than the 3500 series
Write	typically 80 mA more than the 3500 series

The write and read speeds are not noticeably different in a simple read/write test. However, since each application and programmer's technique for data file access is unique, we strongly urge customers to re-qualify the new cards for current profile and file access speed in their own application.

Persistor has decided to discontinue the CompactFlash certification program at this transition. 3500 series cards will continue to be certified until they are sold out, but the 4500 and 4600 cards will not be certified. This means that a card failure will be a warranty issue with Western Digital. The specification sheet for SiliconDrive II lists a limited warranty period of 5 years. Persistor will continue to test samples of these memory cards before sale in an effort to be aware of changes that may impact their use in Persistor products.

Note also, that Persistor will no longer carry memory sizes below 1GB.

Please be sure to remember that memory cards should always be formatted in the Persistor computer before use. Cards purchased from Persistor will be pre-formatted.