

Hard Drive Purchase and Thailand Flooding

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My 2nd desktop is largely reserved for video editing. As it often the issue with video editing, storage space is getting scarce. The sata hard drive has a capacity of 320 GB, and it's getting full. Time to purchase a new hard disk drive...

I've been unaware of most world news lately. My wife's been gone for 2 1/2 weeks on a church mission trip to Africa, so I've been focused on home chores and duties. I really didn't know anything about the recent massive flooding in Thailand. Yes, the Thais often get flooding during monsoon season, but this year is bad--really bad, and aside from the tremendous property damage, many lives have been lost. The effects of this year's monsoons have been exacerbated by deforestation and urban sprawl.

I was also surprised when I went to purchase a new hard disk drive for my video editing computer. I had expected to buy a SATA 6 GB/sec, 1 terabyte or more drive for under \$100.00 US. When I went to newegg.com, I found that 1 terabyte drives were priced at around \$250.00 US--two and one-half times as much as expected.

Turns out that Thailand manufactures, at low estimate, 40% of the world's hard disk drives and at high estimate 80%. The estimates vary because Thailand also manufactures an even larger portion of the world's hard disk sub-assembly parts (e.g. motors, actuators).

Most of these factories are shut down, of course, due to the flooding. And the retail computer hardware market is reacting quickly to shortages of spindle based storage drives with rapidly increasing prices.

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