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Flash is not that reliable Fails slightly more often than hard drives

By [Chris Mellor](#) • [Get more from this author](#)

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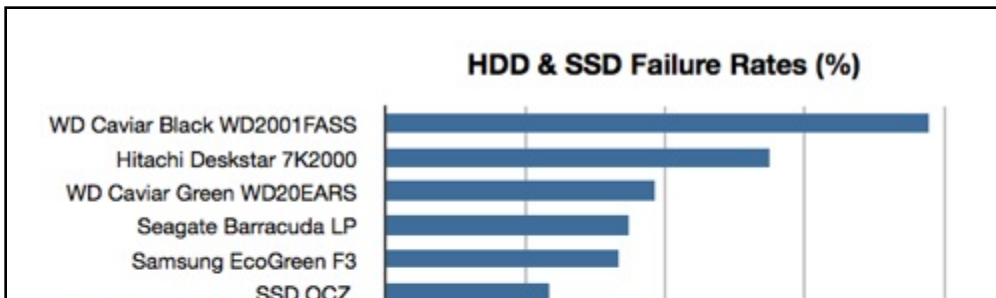
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Flash fails more than disk. [Mac Observer](#) cites a French website showing hard disk drive failure rates (1.94 per cent) were slightly better than solid state drive failure rates (2.05 per cent).

[Hardware.fr](#) obtained its component failure rate statistics from an unidentified retailer's repairs and returns database. The hard disk drive and solid state drive (SSD) failure rates were extracted from this data and overall failure rates calculated.

The source data showed the supplier, capacity and model of disk drive, but only the supplier of the SSDs, not their capacity. Also the type of failure was not revealed; some disk drives may have been repairable.

When higher capacity disk drive failure rates were compared to the SSD rates, the findings reversed: HDDs failed more often than the flash drives. We have graphed 2TB disk drive failure rates against those of the SSDs and, with one exception, the SSDs failed less often.



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