**OXFORD SEMICONDUCTOR**

# Windows Vista 1394/FireWire Speed Settings

## Introduction

The Windows Vista™ operating system now being shipped on all new laptops and desktops generically supports 1394 (otherwise known as FireWire®) connections. However, the performance of a 1394-enabled storage device connected to a Vista host might differ considerably from the performance of the same device on either Windows 2000 or Windows XP hosts.
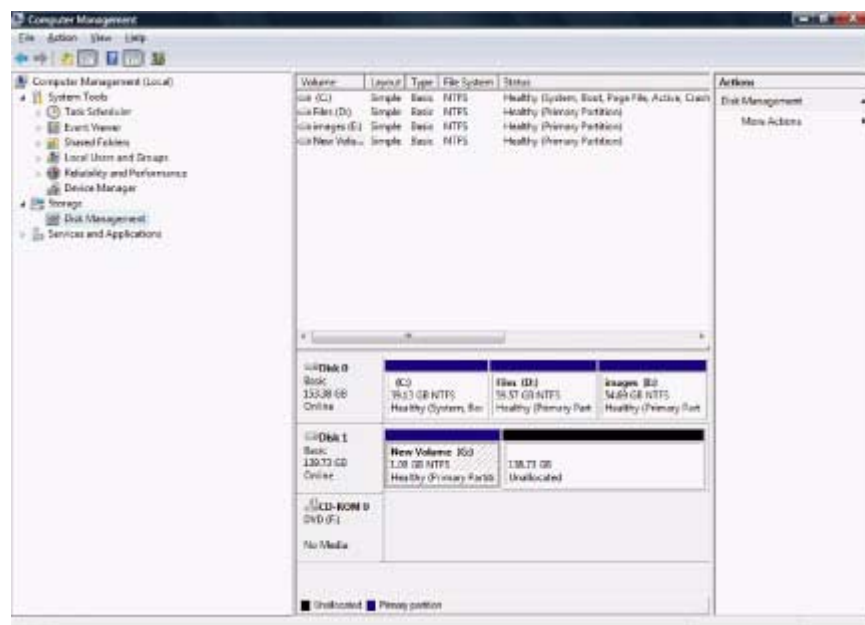
## Vista 1394 Operation Modes

The performance discrepancy is due to the mode of 1394 operation on Vista PCs. Vista has two modes of operation for 1394 storage devices: *fast* and *safe*, with safe as its default setting. In this mode Vista flushes the cache on every 1394 command, which results in a drop in performance from over 40 Mbytes/sec to approximately 25 Mbytes/sec.
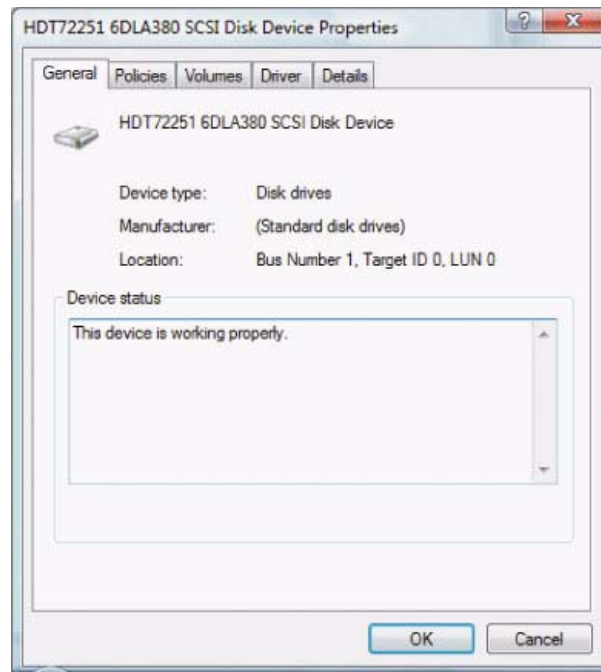
## Selecting Fast Mode

To turn off Vista safe mode and run in fast mode (fast mode is the default mode on Windows XP and Windows 2000) follow the steps below.
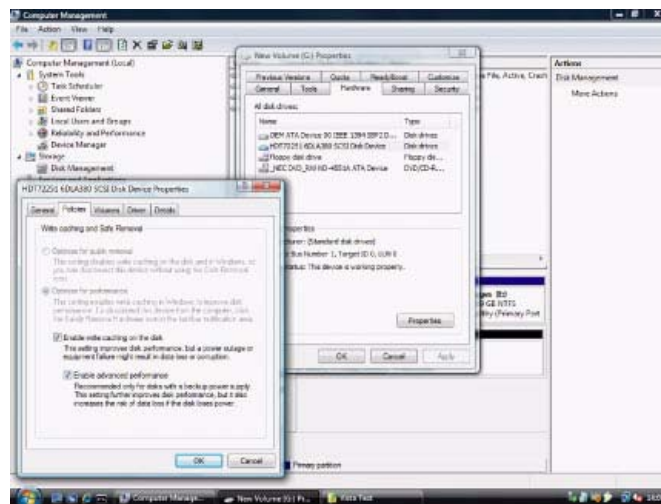
1   Connect the 1394 device to the Vista host PC.
2   Right-click on **My Computer** and select **Manage** to display the Computer Management window (similar to the one below).



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3     Right click on the 1394 device in the disk manager pane (in the example, this is Disk 1) and select **Properties** to display the disk device properties; similar to those shown below.



4     Select the **Policies** tab to display the options for device performance and safety.



5     Select the radio button Optimize for performance and check the box **Enable write caching on the disk** to turn on fast mode operation.

Fast mode selection is now complete for 1394 devices on Windows Vista PCs.

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