RAID

RAID — which stands for **Redundant Array of Inexpensive Disks** (as named by the inventor[1]), or alternatively **Redundant Array of Independent Disks** (a less relative name, and thus now the generally accepted one[2]) — is a technology that employs the simultaneous use of two or more hard disk drives to achieve greater levels of performance, reliability, and/or larger data volume sizes.

The phrase "RAID" is an umbrella term for computer data storage schemes that can divide and replicate data among multiple hard disk drives. RAID's various designs all involve two key design goals: increased data reliability and increased input/output performance. When several physical disks are set up to use RAID technology, they are said to be *in* a *RAID* array. This array distributes data across several disks, but the array is seen by the computer user and operating system as one single disk. RAID can be set up to serve several different purposes, the most common of which are outlined below.