

Apricorn A25-3PL256-S2000F

Apricorn Aegis Fortress 2TB External SSD User Manual

MODEL: A25-3PL256-S2000F

Secure Data Storage with FIPS 140-2 Level 2 Validation

Introduction

The Apricorn Aegis Fortress is a high-security, hardware-encrypted external solid-state drive designed to protect sensitive data. Featuring FIPS 140-2 Level 2 validation and 256-bit AES-XTS encryption, this device offers robust data protection through a PIN-authenticated keypad. It operates without software, ensuring cross-platform compatibility and preventing host-based keylogging.

This manual provides essential information for setting up, operating, maintaining, and troubleshooting your Aegis Fortress SSD.

What's in the Box:

- Aegis Padlock Fortress - USB 3.0 Solid State Drive
- Y-auxiliary USB 3.0 Power Cable
- Travel Pouch
- Quick Start Guide



Image: The Apricorn Aegis Fortress 2TB External SSD, showcasing its compact design and integrated keypad.

Setup

1. **Initial Connection:** Connect the Aegis Fortress SSD to your computer using the provided USB 3.0 cable. For systems that may not provide sufficient power, use the Y-auxiliary USB 3.0 power cable to connect to two USB ports. The device is compatible with PC, Mac, Unix, and Linux operating systems.
2. **Setting the Admin PIN:** Upon first use, you will need to set an Administrator PIN. Refer to the included Quick Start Guide for detailed instructions on entering the initial setup mode and establishing your Admin PIN. The Admin PIN allows full control over the device, including setting User PINs and configuring security features.
3. **Setting a User PIN (Optional):** The Admin can create one or more User PINs. User PINs provide access to the data but have restricted administrative capabilities. This is useful for shared access or specific user roles.
4. **First Use:** After setting the Admin PIN, unlock the device by entering the PIN and pressing the UNLOCK button. The drive will then be recognized by your operating system and ready for use.

Operating the Device

Unlocking and Locking:

- **Unlocking:** To access your data, connect the drive, enter your Admin or User PIN on the keypad, and press the UNLOCK button. The LED indicator will confirm successful unlocking.
- **Locking:** To secure your data, press the LOCK button on the keypad. This will immediately encrypt and lock the drive, making it inaccessible until the correct PIN is entered again. Always lock the drive before disconnecting it or shutting down your computer to ensure data integrity and security.

Advanced Features:

- **Admin and User Modes:** The device supports separate Admin and User PINs, allowing for hierarchical access control.
- **Read-Only Modes:** The Aegis Fortress offers two read-only modes to prevent accidental modification or deletion of data. These modes can be configured by the Administrator.
- **Self-Destruct PIN (Optional):** An Administrator can configure a self-destruct PIN. Entering this specific PIN will trigger a cryptographic erase, rendering all data unrecoverable. Use this feature with extreme caution.
- **Unattended Auto-Lock:** The device can be configured to automatically lock after a period of inactivity, enhancing security when left unattended.
- **Drive Reset Feature:** This feature allows an Administrator to clear all PINs and cryptographically erase all data on the drive, effectively returning it to factory default settings.
- **Lock Override Mode:** This mode is designed for specific scenarios such as booting an operating system from the drive or passing it through a virtual machine, ensuring the drive remains unlocked during these processes.

Maintenance

- **Physical Care:** Keep the device clean and dry. Avoid exposing it to extreme temperatures, direct sunlight, or strong magnetic fields. Do not attempt to open the enclosure, as this will void the warranty and may damage the device.
- **Firmware Updates:** Periodically check the Apricorn official website for any available firmware updates. Firmware updates can improve performance, enhance security, or add new features. Follow the instructions provided by Apricorn carefully when performing updates.
- **Data Backup:** While the Aegis Fortress provides robust security, it is always recommended to maintain regular backups of critical data on separate storage devices.

Troubleshooting

- **Device Not Recognized:**
 - Ensure the USB cable is securely connected to both the drive and the computer.
 - Try a different USB port on your computer.
 - If using a desktop, try connecting to a rear USB port directly on the motherboard.
 - Ensure the drive is unlocked after connecting.
 - If using the Y-auxiliary cable, ensure both USB connectors are plugged in.
- **Data Not Saving/Lost After Disconnect:**
 - Always press the LOCK button on the keypad before disconnecting the drive or shutting down your computer. This ensures all cached data is written to the SSD and secured.
 - Improper disconnection without locking can result in data loss for recently transferred or modified files.

- **Incorrect PIN Entry:**

- If you enter an incorrect PIN, the device will indicate an error. Re-enter the correct PIN.
- Repeated incorrect PIN entries will trigger the programmable brute-force defense mechanism, which can lock the device or perform a cryptographic erase depending on the administrator's settings.
- If you have forgotten your PIN, and a Recovery PIN was set, use that. Otherwise, a drive reset (which erases all data) may be the only option.

- **Slow Performance:**

- Ensure you are connected to a USB 3.0 port for optimal transfer speeds. USB 2.0 ports will result in significantly slower performance.
- Check your computer's drivers for USB 3.0.

Specifications

Feature	Detail
Model Number	A25-3PL256-S2000F
Digital Storage Capacity	2000 GB (2TB)
Hard Disk Interface	USB 3.0
Connectivity Technology	USB
Hard Disk Form Factor	2.5 Inches
Hard Disk Description	Solid State Hard Drive
Compatible Devices	Desktop (PC, Mac, Unix, Linux)
Installation Type	External Hard Drive
Data Transfer Rate	Up to 600 Megabytes Per Second
Item Weight	154 Grams
Manufacturer	Apricorn Direct

Warranty Information

The Apricorn Aegis Fortress SSD comes with a **3-year limited warranty** from the date of purchase. This warranty covers defects in materials and workmanship under normal use. It does not cover damage caused by misuse, accident, unauthorized modification, or external causes.

For complete warranty terms and conditions, please refer to the documentation included with your product or visit the official Apricorn website.

Support

For technical assistance, product registration, or to access additional resources such as FAQs and updated drivers, please visit the official Apricorn support website:

www.apricorn.com/support

You may also contact Apricorn customer service directly through the contact information provided on their website.

