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O&O DriveLED Documentation

Keep drive activity in view with a compact LED bar that you can position and configure from its context menu.

This English user guide explains how to get started, use the main features and interpret the results. Choose a chapter from the sidebar, or follow one of the links below.

- [First Steps](#): complete your first session.
- [Feature Overview](#): find the right workflow.
- [System Requirements](#): check access and prerequisites.
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#): resolve common questions.
- [Support](#): prepare a support request.

Most controls are in the context menu: right-click the LED bar or its Windows notification-area icon.

Feature Overview

Keep drive activity in view with a compact LED bar that you can position and configure from its context menu.

Feature	Learn how to use it
Reading the LED Bar	Read the guide
Choosing Which Drives Appear	Read the guide
Position and Appearance	Read the guide
Startup and Notification Area	Read the guide

Start with First Steps for a complete first session. See System requirements for access and operating requirements.

The chapters describe the controls available in the current application. A feature may be unavailable when its required Windows service, device information or permissions are missing.

System Requirements

Windows and the application package

Use the Windows application package supplied for your computer by O&O Software or by the O&O product that includes this tool. The current application targets Windows 10 and Windows 11. Individual features depend on the operating-system version, services, permissions and hardware available.

The application starts as the current user. Activity display depends on drive availability and Windows performance counters; some drive types do not expose usable counters.

Before starting

Keep the application in a writable, stable location when using a portable distribution. Use the complete O&O-supplied package for your architecture; copying one file out of a development build may omit required runtime components.

A browser is sufficient to read this online manual. The manual itself does not install the Windows application. Network access is needed to open online help and support pages.

First Steps

1. Start **OODriveLED.exe**. A small LED bar and a single Windows notification-area icon appear.
2. Find your drive's label on the bar. The green indicator shows read activity; the red indicator shows write activity.
3. Drag the bar to a convenient position. With **Snap to borders** enabled, it aligns to the edge of the screen.
4. Right-click the bar or its notification-area icon to open the settings menu.
5. Choose **Always on top**, **Horizontal mode** or **Opacity** to adjust the display.
6. Use **Hide LED bar** to hide the bar while keeping the program available in the notification area. Choose **Show LED bar** there to bring it back.

Try opening or copying an ordinary file to observe drive activity. DriveLED only observes the activity; it does not need to write test files to make the indicators work.

To stop DriveLED completely, choose **Exit**. See Startup and notification area if you want it to run at Windows sign-in.

Reading the LED Bar

Each displayed drive has two activity indicators and a label.

Indicator	Meaning
Green	Windows reports data being read from the drive.
Red	Windows reports data being written to the drive.
Both active	Reads and writes are being reported during the sampling period.
Dim indicators	Little or no recent activity is being reported.

The brightness changes with activity and fades after a burst, making brief accesses easier to see. Sampling occurs repeatedly, so the bar is an activity indicator rather than an exact record of every individual operation.

Hover over a drive to see its identifying information. The display shows logical drives, which can be partitions on the same physical device.

What the lights do not tell you

Red means writing; it is not an error light. DriveLED does not identify the process responsible for an access, diagnose SMART health or estimate remaining SSD life. A dim LED does not prove that a drive is disconnected: the drive may simply be idle, or Windows may not expose its activity counters.

For process and file-level write analysis, see the O&O VisualDisk tool supplied with O&O Defrag.

Choosing Which Drives Appear

Open the context menu by right-clicking the bar or its Windows notification-area icon.

Default drive list

Fixed drives are shown by default. This can include an external hard disk that Windows classifies as a fixed drive, so “external” does not always mean a drive is hidden by default.

View external drives

Enable **View external drives** to include externally connected removable media such as USB sticks and memory cards. The application checks device information to distinguish external devices where Windows provides it.

View virtual drives

Enable **View virtual drives** to broaden the list to other drive types, including network, optical and virtual drives. Being listed does not guarantee that Windows supplies usable activity counters for that drive.

When a drive is missing

Check that the drive is connected and available in File Explorer. Then review these two menu options. DriveLED updates its drive list when devices are added or removed. If a listed drive never shows activity, see the FAQ.

Position and Appearance

Use the context menu on the bar or notification-area icon to configure its appearance. The same settings apply whichever menu you open.

Menu option	Effect
Always on top	Keeps the bar above ordinary application windows.
Hide border	Removes the visible frame for a smaller visual footprint.
Horizontal mode	Shows drives in a row when enabled; switches to a vertical arrangement when disabled.
Snap to borders	Aligns the bar to screen edges as you move it.
Opacity	Controls how solid or transparent the bar appears.
Hide LED bar / Show LED bar	Hides or restores the bar without exiting the application.

Drag the bar to move it. Choose a location that leaves frequently used buttons and text visible. If the bar is distracting, lower its opacity or temporarily hide it from the context menu.

DriveLED has display resources for light, dark and high-contrast Windows themes. Its ordinary context menu does not contain the General or Updates settings dialog used by some other O&O tools.

Display preferences and the bar position are saved for later sessions.

Startup and Notification Area

Start with Windows

Right-click the bar or notification-area icon and enable **Automatic startup**. This registers DriveLED to start for your Windows user when you sign in. Turn the same option off to stop automatic launch.

Keep the executable in the location from which you enabled automatic startup. If you move it, disable automatic startup before moving it and enable the option again from the new location.

Hide, show or exit

Hide LED bar hides the window while the notification-area icon remains available. Windows may place that icon in its hidden-icons overflow. Open the overflow, right-click DriveLED and choose **Show LED bar** to restore it.

The hidden state is saved, so a later start may initially show only the notification-area icon. Use **Exit** to close the program completely. Exiting the current session does not by itself turn off automatic startup.

Open help

Choose **Help** from the context menu, or press **F1** while the bar has focus. The current application does not provide a separate About or automatic-update dialog.

Frequently Asked Questions

Does a red light indicate a drive problem?

No. Red shows write activity, and green shows read activity. These indicators do not report drive health.

Why is the bar missing after I start the program?

It may have been saved in its hidden state. Find the DriveLED notification-area icon, including in Windows' hidden-icons overflow, then choose **Show LED bar**.

Why is an external drive shown with “View external drives” off?

Windows classifies some external hard disks as fixed drives. Fixed drives are included by default.

Why does a drive never blink?

Check that the drive is doing work and that the selected view includes it. Some virtual, optical or network drives do not expose the counters needed for an activity display. The absence of blinking is not a hardware diagnosis.

Does hiding the bar stop monitoring?

It keeps DriveLED running in the notification area. Use **Exit** to stop the application.

Can I see which application is writing?

DriveLED shows drive-level activity. It does not list processes or files.

How do I stop it starting with Windows?

Clear **Automatic startup** in the context menu. Exiting the program only ends the current session.

Support and More from O&O

Get help

Choose **Help** in the context menu or press **F1** while the LED bar has focus.

For assistance, visit O&O Software Support. Include:

- The O&O DriveLED version and your Windows version.
- The steps that led to the problem.
- The exact message and any error code.
- Relevant findings or log excerpts, if available.

Review reports and logs before sharing them: they can include file paths, process names or other machine details.

Product information

See the O&O product catalog for downloads, product descriptions and licensing information for the package you use. If this tool was supplied with another O&O product, include that product's name and version in your support request.

O&O Software also offers tools for backup, recovery, storage optimization and Windows administration. Choose a tool according to the task you need to perform; reading this manual does not install or activate another product.