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Paranoid? Hide Your Mac's Tracks With A Shredder

By Jeffrey Mincey | Friday, October 1, 2010 | [Home](#) » [Tips and Tricks](#) »



In an age where everyone is out to get your money and information about you, paranoia is the right attitude to have.

If you and your Mac are [online](#), then you're leaving tracks. Tracks that stay on your Mac, that stay [online](#). Someone, somewhere could

track you down, expose your internet habits, just by digging up your tracks. Paranoid? Start a clean life with a shredder to destroy your Mac's tracks. At least, some of them.

There Is No Such Thing As Anonymity

As much as many of have concerns about privacy, I'm not too certain we have much left. Take internet browsing and [email](#). We leave tracks to web sites we've visited. Even email messages leave tracks.

The problem is two-fold. Tracks on our [Macs](#).

And tracks everywhere else. Tracks in the form of cache [files](#) that stick around long after we've deleted a browsing history or destroyed incriminating email messages.

Destroying our tracks in [Google](#) or email servers or elsewhere online is a whole different ball game that's easier said than done. Destroying incriminating files on our Mac? For that we have a little more control.

By Jeffrey Mincey

Bring In The Shredders

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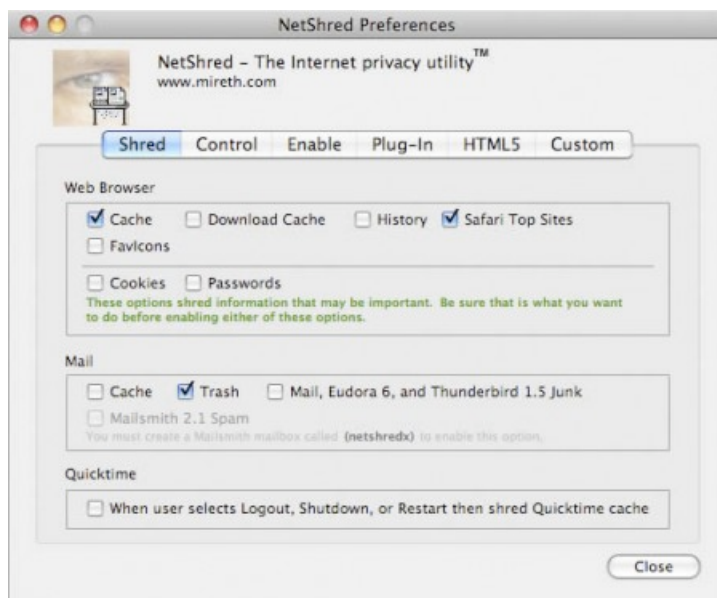
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Even Apple recognizes that we have a desire for privacy. Safari comes with a Private Browsing setting in the Safari menu. The Finder has a Secure Empty Trash feature in the menu.

[NetShred X](#) is a Mac app that moves you to another level of shredding, deleting, destroying files that may come back to haunt you. It won't track down and destroy those pesky tracks you leave on Google, but it will clean up your Mac.

First, NetShred runs in the background. Once you set it up, you can forget about it. It's not an app you have to use every now and then on some kind of schedule.

Second, NetShred doesn't delete, it erases files in such a way that they cannot be recovered (at least by humans). It erases your browser cache, history of sites visited, download cache, QuickTime [movie](#) cache, favicons cache, Top Sites, Java cache, Flash cache, HTML5 cache, email cache, deleted email, junk mail and spam.



Setup is simple and straightforward.

Choose what you want to shred, including Cookies and Passwords for browsers, Cache and Trash for email, and more. Shred? Yes, NetShred slices and dices and Juliennes all those files so they're nearly impossible to recover.

It works like a digital shredder so there's really nothing left of those nefarious files to recover.

[NetShred X](#) is one solution which works well on browsers, email, and other cache files.

If someone is able to get to your Mac there's



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not much of a trail to follow to find out where you've been, what you watched, what you read.



Unfortunately, NetShred is only half the privacy equation. Once you're online you leave other tracks with advertisers, search engines, web sites, servers, chat and email, included. Despite how easy it is for the tech folks at NCIS Los Angeles to hack into remote servers to track down criminals, it's not quite that simple, easy, or quick.

All you can do is all you can do. [NetShred X](#) gives you a little less paranoia.

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Jeffrey Mincey | I'm a Mac, Windows, and Linux system administrator for the Georgia state government in Atlanta, Georgia. I've been a Mac user for more than 20 years. Most of it slaving on a hot keyboard way too late at night.

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