Five Apps

Five hard disk cleaning and erasing tools

By Mark Kaelin October 10, 2012, 11:36 AM PDT

Takeaway: Brien Posey lists five tools that ensure your personal information is securely removed from all hard disks.

When it comes to disposing of old hard drives, simply erasing your files or reformatting the drive alone is not enough to ensure your privacy. In this age of rampant ID theft, it is more important than ever to ensure that your personal information is securely removed from all hard disks. That being the case, I decided to create a list of five utilities for securely erasing and formatting old hard drives.

This blog post is also available as a TechRepublic Photo Gallery.

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Active@Kill Disk - Hard Drive Eraser

Active@ Kill Disk - Hard Drive Eraser is a free utility for securely erasing a hard drive. More importantly, this utility adheres to United States Department of Defense standards (DoD 5220.22M) for hard disk data removal.

Although some might consider it to be hokey, I especially liked the certificate feature. When a hard disk has been erased, the software generates a certificate that you can print as a way of proving that the disk has been securely erased.

Active® KillDisk for Windows FREE version Build 6.0.0		- 0
File Task Help		
Image: Scan Pause/Stap Image: Scan	ata Settings About	
👾 System Local Disks		
Flappy Disk 0 (00h)		
🖶 Local Disk (A:) 4 💟 😫 Hard Disk ((10h) Virtual HD		
 Hard bisk e (ton) virtual HD Unallocated 		
🖻 📰 🖮 System Reserved (1:)		
Interpretation in the second secon	Hard Disk 0 (80h)	
Imallocated Imallocat	Name: Virtual HD	
🔄 🚚 Unallocated	Version: 1.1.0	
	Serial Number: 000000002	
	Device Geometry:	
	Mode LBA: Yes Cylinders: 16578	
	Tracks Per Cylinder: 255	
	Sectors Per Track: 63	
	Total Sectors: 266338304	
	Bytes Per Sector: 512 Total Size: 127.0 GB (136365211648 bytes)	
	100a13tze. 127.0 OB (130303211046 09169)	
	C Folders and Files	
	Properties	
2012-09-23 00:10:53 Session started 2012-09-23 00:10:58 Initialized		
A 1011-03-13 40:10:30 BAUNUTAU		
Session Log S Progress		

Eraser

Eraser from Heidi Computers, is another free utility for securely erasing data from a hard disk. The most interesting thing about this utility is that it provides several different methods for overwriting data, based on a number of different standards. You can even define your own method for overwriting data.

This utility allows you to securely erase specific files, folders, unused disk space, or even the recycle bin. Furthermore, erase operations can be run manually or scheduled.

🔮 Eraser			- • •
erase	Schedule 🗸 👘 Settings 🕜 Help	I .	
	Settings		Save Settings
	integration		1
	er interface language:	English	J
v	Integrate Eraser into Windows Explorer		=
Erase	settings		
De	fault file erasure method:	Gutmann (35 passes)	
	fault unused space erasure method: ndomness data source:	Gutmann (35 passes) US DoD 5220.22-M (8-306./E, C & E) (7 passes) RCMP TSSIT OPS-II (7 passes) Schneier 7 pass (7 passes)) L
V	Force locked files to be unlocked for erasure	German VSITR (7 passes)	
	Replace erased files with the following files	US DoD 5220.22-M (8-306./E) (3 passes) British HMG IS5 (Enhanced) (3 passes)	Folder Remove
		US Air Force 5020 (3 passes) US Army AR380-19 (3 passes) Russian GOST P50739-95 (2 passes) British HMG IS5 (Baseline) (1 pass) Pseudorandom Data (1 pass) First/last 16KB Erasure	

Shredit for Windows

Shredit for Windows is a privacy application that is designed to securely erase individual files, free space, or entire hard drives. The software lets you pick the write pattern and the number of writes. A number of different government standards are supported.

Shredit for Windows costs \$24.95 for the download version or \$34.95 for the CD-ROM version.

hredIt				
Use Si MIRETH TECHNOLOGY	is no way to recover shredded items hredIt to securely delete a file, a , or the free space on a disk. e registration go to www.mireth.com		Choose Disk A: Shred Freespace	
Current Name			Shred File	
Folder: File:			Shred Folder	
Progress			About	
		00.0%	Buy Now	
Copyright 1991 - 2009, The	Mireth Technology Corporation. All Rights Reserved	d.	Quit	
Options Confirm Shredding: ▼ Files ▼ Folders Write Pattern: Mireth Standard ▼ Number of Writes: Mireth Standard ▼ Activity Log: Enabled Include Original Filenames In Log Log Filename: c:\ShredItLog.txt Browse Show Log Government Standards: ✓ Dod 5220 Clear ✓ Dod 5220 Sanitize ✓ NSA ✓ DoE Final DoE Pattern: Zeros ✓				
Serial Number (Registration Enter to Unlock: DEMO	Key) Version - Try Before You Buy.			

Disk Wipe

Disk Wipe is a free utility for wiping data from a hard disk in a secure manner. Like Eraser, Disk Wipe includes a number of different algorithms, including DoD 5220-22.M, and Peter Guttman. The really nice thing about this utility is that it is portable, so you don't have to install it to be able to use it. Furthermore, Disk Wipe works on more than just hard drives. It can also be used to securely wipe USB flash drives and SD cards.

Disk Wip	e - Portable		-	-		= C X
Wipe Disk	Q View Data	S Refresh	Settings	() Help	- 😣 Close	Disk Wipe v1.7
System Loc	al Disks	Selected Disk Informations				
Floppy Disk	>	Ŷ		Local Disk	(C:)	
		Drive	Information	:		
		Volum	ne Label:			
		Serial	Number:		F46B1DD9	
		Filesy	stem:		NTFS	1
		OEMI	Name:		NTFS	H
		Bytes	Sector:		512	
		Sector	rs/Cluster:		8	
		Resen	ved Sectors:		0	
		Media	Descriptor:		248	
Press F1 for H	elp					74

Darik's Boot and Nuke

Darik's Boot and Nuke is a free, open source utility for securely erasing hard drives. Although this utility is designed to be secure and effective, the author does not explicitly guarantee that data is completely unrecoverable and there is no support for this application.

Darik's Boot and Nuke

Warning: This software irrecoverably destroys data.

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http://www.dban.org/

- * Press the F2 key to learn about DBAN.
- * Press the F3 key for a list of quick commands.
- * Press the F4 key to read the RAID disclaimer.
- * Press the ENTER key to start DBAN in interactive mode.
- * Enter autonuke at this prompt to start DBAN in automatic mode.

boot:

Also read:

- Video: How to wipe a hard disk with DBAN
- Three methods for erasing data securely from an iOS device
- Five apps to wipe data from your Android phone

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