

MAXIMUM SECURITY

Nobody wants company or private data to get into the wrong hands.

There are many different methods and shredder tools for erasing hard disks. They differ in respect to safety, time involved and user-friendliness.

The established methods for erasing hard disks do not guarantee that sensitive data will be erased completely.

Methods for erasing data

Overwriting using software

Overwriting software writes random, complex and meaningless data onto all accessible areas of the hard disk. The software is loaded onto a computer or server and then executes the overwriting process. Most overwriting tools repeat this process several times.

Demagnetising

Originally, these processes were developed to erase disks and magnetic tapes.

A hard disk is demagnetised by subjecting it to a strong magnetic field. The polarity of the magnetic medium changes, which effectively deletes the data. This method has some unwanted side effects: the resulting electromagnetic radiation can affect electronic equipment in the vicinity. In addition, the demagnetising process is hazardous to health, and so has to be carried out outside of the office or in an insulated environment.

Physical destruction

This term is open to a variety of interpretations. Many professional and commercial shredding service providers use their own techniques to reduce hard disks to small particles. Some companies that do not employ professional shredding service providers rely on dubious methods; they use 20 ton presses or sledgehammers, or disassemble the device and grind the hard disks.

The Digital Shredder is the safest and most convenient method for erasing hard disks

Methods for wiping hard drives

| Requirements | HSM Digital Shredder | Overwriting software | Demagnetisation | Physical destruction |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Data is deleted irretrievably | YES | no | maybe ¹ | maybe ⁴ |
| Deletion process is controlled and secure | YES | yes | maybe ² | no ² |
| Deletion log as incontrovertible documentation of the process | YES | no | no ³ | no |
| Simple operation | YES | no | no | no |
| Can be re-used | YES | yes | no | no |

1. The machine's magnetic field may not be strong enough to delete all the data.
2. In many cases, the wiping is done by an external service provider, whose process security cannot be verified.
3. As demagnetisation destroys the hard drive, there is no way to verify whether the process was successful.
4. Depends on the level of destruction.



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