

## Re: Hard Drive data security

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To: security-basics@securityfocus.com

Leong Kok Wah Kenneth wrote:

- > *I have heard many people suggesting using hdd wiping program to*
- > *permanently 'wash' the hdd until the data was unrecoverable. But*
- > *questions are –*
- >
- > *1. where do we get 'free' disk wiping program from the net?*

For free and easy, I would recommend the Ultimate Boot CD

<http://www.ultimatebootcd.com/>

since it contains many useful utilities, including:

– Hard Disk Wiping –

AutoClave 0.3

Active@ KillDisk Free Edition 3.0

Darik's Boot and Nuke 1.0.3

PC INSPECTOR e-maxx 0.95 Build 775

I've found Autoclave to preform properly and I recommend it's use.

- > *2. what assurance that it will do a good job using the 'free' disk*
- > *wiping program as they are compared commerical licensed ones?*

Free ones are usually made by independent developers to serve their own purposes and they are usually more trustworthy than a company who might have other interests. The best method to know who to trust is, of course, to test it. Open up the hard drive in a Hex editor and view it after it's been wiped to see if the wipe was actually wiping ;).

- > *3. Without using any hdd wiping s/w, has anyone try this method*
- > *before and confirmed that they are not able to recover data of the*
- > *1st set original set. (ie leaving the 1st original data intact, use*
- > *ghost image or any other imaging s/w and restore any data image into*
- > *the hdd. Next, use the fdisk and then re-format the hdd. Now, use any*
- > *recovery software (any eg) tools and test to see if the recovered*
- > *data belonging to the currently restored data (ie the imaged data) or*
- > *the 1st original data?*

## SecurityFocus BASICS: Re: Hard Drive data security

This is a good example of how hard disk wiping software works, is works by writing over the existing data multiple times (usually with random data) to help ensure the erasure of data.

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