

## Re: Hard Drive scrub

**Source:** <http://www.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/alt.computer.security/2005-06/0516.html>

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**Date:** 06/22/05

Date: Tue, 21 Jun 2005 20:03:18 -0400

<http://www.micro2000.co.uk/products/eraserdisk/features.htm>

"Unruh" <unruh-spam@physics.ubc.ca> wrote in message  
news:d8vi81\$et\$1@nntp.itservices.ubc.ca...

> "nemo\_outis" <abc@xyz.com> writes:

>

>> "someone2" <someone@somewhere.nowhere> wrote in

>>news:mjDse.50345\$U.44518@lakeread05:

>

>>>

>>> "nemo\_outis" <abc@xyz.com> wrote in message

>>> news:Xns96784A18143F3abcxyzcom@127.0.0.1...

>>>> "----" <no@spam.com> wrote in news:kXtse.1721605\$6l.1632425@pd7tw2no:

>>>>

>>>>> Content-Type: text/plain; charset="iso-8859-1"

>>>>> Content-Transfer-Encoding: quoted-printable

>>>>>

>>>>> I've scrubed one of my hard drives using an application that does

>>>>> multiple wipes followed by a final writing of all zeros to every

>>>>> sector of the hard drive.

>>>>>

>>>>> How can I verify that the hard drive has truly been scrubed before

>>>>> I send it offiste?

>>>>>

>>>>> Thank you

>>>>>

>>>>> Use any of the file-recovery tools, especially the forensic ones,

>>>>> such as Encase, etc.

>>>>>

>>>>> This will confirm \*software\* unrecoverability – if someone is willing

>>>>> to spend serious bucks, hardware recovery may still be possible.

>>>>>

>>>>> Regards,

>>>>>

>>>>

>>> Not true.

>>> After a 3 times overwrite virtually nothing is recoverable by any

>>> professional

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>>> *After a 30 times over write nothing is recoverable.*  
>  
> *Not true. The tracks on the disk can shift by small amounts. Thus the*  
> *rewrite can cover a track that is shifted from the original (eg temp*  
> *changes, electronics changes in the head positioning etc). Those small*  
> *side*  
> *tracks can still have useful info on them. It hard to read, and cannot be*  
> *done with the usual disk hardware, but with special read heads or STMs*  
> *information may well be recoverable.*  
>  
>>>  
>>> *If someone has the capability to recover anything of use after 7 times*  
>>> *over write I want to speak to them. I will refer DR jobs to them!*  
>>>  
>>> *Re the OP and his ?. Winhex or similar and examine some random*  
>>> *sectors for text or data.*  
>  
>  
>> *The limits of the possible in data recovery are NOT set by the commercial*  
>> *recovery houses.*  
>  
>> *The US DoD recommends \*destruction\* of any HD that is to pass outside the*  
>> *agency, EVEN for those used just for general office work, let alone those*  
>> *those that once contained classified data (see, for instance, DoD*  
>> *Directive 8500.1, October 2002. The ancient DoD 5220.22-M with its*  
>> *overwrite specs was rescinded as obsolete long ago!).*  
>  
>> *Even degaussing is viewed askance (since only the top-end units can*  
>> *handle modern high-coercivity drives, and, even then, reliability – 80+*  
>> *dB suppression – is spotty). Software methods, such as overwriting, just*  
>> *don't cut it against a serious adversary (even ignoring, for the moment,*  
>> *that things such as HD buffers – some bigger than 8 megs – may result in*  
>> *7 overwrites really only resulting in one!).*  
>  
>> *Yes, a disk that has been overwritten many times times will not be*  
>> *recoverable by an ordinary recovery shop, but they do not use methods*  
>> *such as second-harmonic magnetoresistive microscopy and newer variants*  
>> *(since they would never be economically viable See, for instance,*  
>> *<http://www.boulder.nist.gov>). Ordinary users need not worry about such*  
>> *recovery methods, but they are well within the capabilities of TLAs and*  
>> *some other labs (which is why I used "may" in my post).*  
>  
>> *If a HD contains, or has ever contained, sensitive data it should be*  
>> *destroyed, not erased, when one is finished with it. Since new drives*  
>> *cost less than \$1/gig these days, anything else is madness.*  
>  
> *Agree completely.*  
> *And when you destroy it, make sure that you heat the platters to a high*  
> *temp.*  
>  
>

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>>*Regards,*

>