

## Re: Ways to \*REALLY\* erase a hard drive?

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**From:** Roger Hamlett (*rogerspamignored\_at\_ttelmah.demon.co.uk*)

**Date:** 02/11/05

Date: Fri, 11 Feb 2005 14:35:16 GMT

"Al" <no.spam@wanted.com> wrote in message  
news:no.spam-9260BB.09202911022005@news.verizon.net...  
> *In article <vVPOd.2918\$Iz5.94@newssvr24.news.prodigy.net>,  
> "Greysky" <greyskynospam@sbcglobal.net> wrote:  
>  
>> I recently had a 80 gig Maxtor hard drive die on me. Though it was  
>> still  
>> under warranty (just) I decided a much better use for it was to turn it  
>> into  
>> a show-and-tell for the local elementary school kids. I finally managed  
>> to  
>> get the cover off the thing, exposing the inner platters. Someone told  
>> me a  
>> Torx 10 would fit those crazy screws on the cover plate - they were  
>> wrong.  
>> I had to drill them off. Now, I need to know a sure fire way of wiping  
>> data  
>> off the platters for good. The machine died before I could erase it  
>> inside  
>> the computer, so far I have a bunch of 'super magnets' which I dropped  
>> directly onto the platters and let them stay there overnight. Do you  
>> think  
>> this is enough? I would like to get them as deleted as I can possibly  
>> get  
>> them, but still be able to use the drive as a demonstration device for  
>> the  
>> kids. Thanks.  
>>  
>>  
>  
> Years ago, when reel-to-reel tape recorders were popular, there was a  
> gadget called a bulk reel eraser. It completely wiped any information on  
> the tapes. In essence it was just a giant electromagnet that ran on AC.  
> The fluctuating magnet field was sufficient to totally erase the  
> information and not leave a magnetic bias on the magnetic medium. If you  
> can find one, you might be able to build one easily from a discarded  
> transformer.*

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> *Yes, and most of the screws are Torx. But they are also held in with a  
> drop of some sort of glue to prevent their backing out. I've extracted  
> platters from dozens of drives which I got at our town's recycling  
> center. I do it mainly for the magnets. And the platters make neat  
> coasters for your drinks ; -)*

Beware though, that the design of digital tapes, can make them much harder to erase, than the old audio tapes. I had an eraser of the type you are referring to. Had happily erased any number of audio tapes, then tried a DAT tape. It was amazingly resistant to this type of erasure (after ten minutes, it eventually became unreadable). The same is almost certainly true of the data on a hard disk.

Best Wishes