



Wipe-It- Whitepaper

Introduction

This Whitepaper describes the purpose, function, specification and pricing for the software solution **Wipe-It**.

In 1998 20.6million PC CPU's became obsolete in the US alone.

It is estimated that by 2007 the cumulative total of obsolete PCs will be approximately 500 million – nearly twice the US population. Electronic Product Recovery and Recycling Baseline Report, 1999.

When businesses and the public sector dispose of PC's, they sometimes have sensitive personal information on them. Investigators have found files with details of a very famous Beatle, Sir Paul no-less, with his private investments on a second hand PC that was being replaced by his bank.

Neither the bank nor the recycling company they had passed the PC to had completely deleted the information contained on the hard disk.

Other information found by researchers related to charities including the Cancer Research Campaign. The Express and Channel 4 News Survey 2000

Purpose:

Wipe-It is a program used to erase the contents of a hard or floppy disk so no previous information may be retrieved or traced through data retrieval tools or forensics. The disk's partition information is also removed and the disk is left in a state ready for re-use. Re-formatting a disk or deleting files does not actually clear data from a disk. These functions either leave the file data behind on the disk, which can be retrieved by sophisticated forensic tools, even after it has been overwritten once or twice.

This means that if you wish to permanently remove all traces of data from your disk you need to use **Wipe-It**.

Wipe-It overwrites the entire disk multiple times using specially designed patterns to ensure that any data that has existed is completely obliterated and invisible to even the most sophisticated tools available today. Before selling your machine it or having it serviced, permanently remove sensitive or confidential files with **Wipe-It** to ensure that no one can recover your data.

WARNING! Please ensure backup copies are made of information you wish to retain before using **Wipe-It**. After the program has been applied it will not be possible to retrieve data. No liability can be accepted or implied for data lost through inadvertent use of **Wipe-It**

Function:

Wipe-It is a DOS based application, which is supplied on a single 3.5-inch conventional floppy disk. It is supplied complete with operating system and software. DR DOS is used to boot the computer into a low-level usable state. The **Wipe-It** software is then invoked. Options are presented to the user, allowing a disk to be selected for secure deletion. Options are also presented to the operator allowing the type of overwrite required and the number of times the process is to be repeated. Suitable warnings are presented to the operator before execution of the program begins. Once started, the process may be halted but partial irreversible disk erasure will have been completed.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Why does **Wipe-It** have a strange interface?

A. This strange interface is actually a DOS program and is how programs used to look before Windows. The advantage of having **Wipe-It** as a DOS program is that you can boot your machine directly from the program disk, and gain access to all your hard disks at the very low level required to wipe them. This means that you can wipe disks that contain any kind of data (DOS, Windows, Linux etc).

Unfortunately Windows does not allow programs direct access to hard disks when it is running, which means that **Wipe-It** cannot run effectively under Windows. If you do attempt to use it under Windows it will still look the same but you will only be able to wipe floppy disks.

Q. I've wiped a disk, but now realize that I need some of the data that was stored on it. What can I do to get it back?

A. Nothing! Once a disk has been wiped with **Wipe-It**, it is as if the data never existed so there is nothing to retrieve. For this reason, please make sure you don't need anything on the disk before wiping it.

Q. Why do I need **Wipe-It** can't I just delete files from my disk?

A. Deleting files does not actually delete the data contained on the disk, it simply marks the file as deleted, and leaves the data alone. You can verify this using the sector viewer within **Wipe-It**.

Q. What about formatting?

A. Again formatting does not delete the data on the disk.

Q. Why does **Wipe-It** overwrite the data with so many patterns?

A. Tools are available that will allow data to be read from a disk even if it has been overwritten once/twice. They do this by analysing the minuscule magnetic residue on the disk 'beneath' the new data. So if you really need to delete data then use **Wipe-It**

Q. Who should use **Wipe-It**?

A. Anyone who needs or wants to permanently delete sensitive or confidential data from a disk. Such circumstances would be the sale or servicing of computer equipment or in complying with the **Data Protection Act**.

Q. What if I don't need to clear the entire disk, can I use it delete specific files or folders?

A. No. **Wipe-It** is specifically designed for those instances where you want to wipe a complete disk. Its sister product, **Shred-It** which is also supplied by Computer Communications Limited is designed for securely deleting files and folders.

Specification:

DOS Version: DR DOS

Disk Size: All current disk sizes and formats supported.

Overwrite patterns: 11111111,00000000,10101010,01010101, User selectable.

No of Repeats: User Selectable

Erasure Times: 1GB per hour (Average)– Dependant on speed of disk, processor, write patterns and repeat count License:

Pricing:	Single User £19.95
Corporate Site License:	Upto 50 PC's £16.00 per copy
	Upto 100 PC's £15.00 per copy
	Upto 250 PC's £13.00 per copy
	Over 500 PC's £10.00 per copy

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