

How and why to remove data from your systems prior to recycling

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We all want to make sure that we recycle our old computers, but you need to know what to do before you send it to a recycler.

Excerpt from a magazine article dated October 2007 – “Working with universities in UK, Australia and the US, British Telecom bought 300 hard disks at computer fairs and on-line auctions. Testing showed that nearly four in ten still contained personal data, including salary details, bank and credit account details, along with medical data.” With that information a criminal could use your personal or company information to take over accounts in your name.



Here are a few recommendations:

1. Run a program like Active@KillDisk software. It will detect and display information about all partitions, hard disks and drives currently connected to your computer. Make sure to select a method that is one of many acceptable DoD (US Department of Defense) methods. After you run the program you will get a report stating that it has successfully destroyed the data.
2. Another option would be to physically damage the drives to the level that someone else is not able to spin them. This option still requires you to call a recycler to pick them up.
3. You could pull all of your old hard drives and keep them in a safe storage place, before sending the computers to a recycler. Of course, who wants the extra clutter?
4. Or you can contact Solbrekk Service Support and make arrangements to have us remove your data by following our policy and procedure using industry best practices.

Other recommendations:

1. Don't give away old machines with passwords on them that will allow others to gain entry to passwords protecting your personal information.
2. Change any banking or personal passwords when changing to another machine, this will at least help to secure your personal online information.
3. For more information go online to http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Data_erasure and http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Data_remanence.

We at Solbrekk want to provide you with the best answers possible for your technology questions. Feel free to give us a call at the office to discuss any of your computer recycling needs.