Title:
Clean the Hard Drive Before Dumping Your PC

Word Count:
789

Summary:
<p> If you're getting rid of your old computer there are some things you should know about it.
<p>Chances are there's sensitive data on it. If you're like me, that PC's hard drive contains

Keywords:
Small Business Plans, Small Business Start Up, Small Business Ideas

Article Body:
<h2>Clean the Hard Drive Before Dumping Your PC </h2>
<h2>If you're getting rid of your old computer, chances are there's sensitive data on it. Make
By Kim Komando
<p>If you're getting rid of your old computer there are some things you should know about it.
<p>Chances are there's sensitive data on it. If you're like me, that PC's hard drive contains
<h3>Is the Data Really Gone? </h3>
<p>Here's the problem: An index of files is maintained for the hard drive, telling it where th
<p>When that file is deleted, the links between the index and the file disappear. That tells y
<p>Assuming you just deleted everything in preparation for saying goodbye to your PC, it is un
<h3>Do You Trust the Recipient? </h3>
<p>How you handle this really depends on where the computer is going. If a trusted employee or
<p>So here are my four suggestions. </p>
<h3>1. Give the Computer to a Trusted Employee, Friend or Family Member </h3>
<p>If you trust who you give it to, I wouldn't put a lot of effort into destroying data. Recov
<p>So if you give the PC to someone you trust, you should simply delete the files. More extens
<h3>2. Reformat the Hard Drive and Re-install the Operating System </h3>
<p>Reformatting a disk prepares it to accept a new operating system. It also wipes out everyth
<p>Reformatting will keep most people out of your old files. But specialised shareware exists
<h3>3. Buy Software and Overwrite the Disk, Again and Again and Again </h3>
<p>If you don't know much about computers, this might be easier than Step 2. There are several
<p>Norton's SystemWorks includes an application called Wipe Info. OnTrack's DataEraser offers
<p>You can leave the operating system and other files on the hard disk, if you want. These pro
<h3>4. You're Totally Paranoid, so Get Out the Acetylene Torch </h3>
<p>I'm not kidding. The only absolute and assured way of protecting your data is to destroy th
<p>The Pentagon shreds its hard drives. That should work, assuming you can find a hard-drive s
<p>You need to destroy the platters inside. Try smashing them with a hammer. Destroying them w
<p>Step 4 seems excessive to me. But you're right to be paranoid about this. Identity theft is