

HD-20: Erasing Information to Government Specs

Article Change History

08/27/92 - REVISED

* To provide information on "HD 20 Test" version 1.1, and how to use it to perform a low-level format of the hard drive that meets Government specs for erasing the disk.

I used my HD-20, non-SCSI hard drive, while working on a U.S. Government contract, which is now completed. I need to erase the information on the hard drive in accordance with Government specs, or the Government will confiscate my hard drive, so they can destroy it.

The Finder's Erase Disk option is not suitable for erasing sensitive Government information because it simply erases the disk's directory.

Do you have a utility that zeros all blocks, including those that were previously spared?

This article has been archived and is no longer updated by Apple. "HD 20 Test" version 1.1 has a data-destructive, low-level formatting feature that can be used for this.

The low-level formatting feature of "HD 20 Test" version 1.1 is hidden. To access it:

- 1) Launch the program.
- 2) When the main dialog appears, press "Command-D", and a new dialog appears. This dialog displays what is actually happening during the diagnostic cycle. It also provides more detailed options.
- 3) Click the radio button marked "Dstreet" at the lower right of the dialog box to perform a data-destructive, low-level format on the drive (all zeros are written to every block).

Note

A 24-hour extended diagnostic test is also available with "HD 20 Test" version 1.1 as a hidden feature. Press "Command-E" when the main dialog appears to access this feature.

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