

# Re: Cleaning up laptop for resale

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*Source:*

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.general/2005-08/msg15062.html>

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- *From:* "Jackie D" <[jackied@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:jackied@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Fri, 26 Aug 2005 05:41:18 -0700
- 

Hi everyone

Thanks to all of you for replying to my question. I have a confession to make! I DO have the restore disc. I didn't realise this is what I needed to reinstall Windows. Sorry... I have now reinstalled windows (having performed a full format of the HD).

But I am still worried that if I sell the laptop some clever person might still be able to retrieve my data. Am I worrying unnecessarily? Would it help to use a file shredder or is it too late given that I've reformatted my drive?

I have posted a question about file shredders separately to this thread (which was a bit dumb) so apologies to anyone who replies there too.

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Many thanks  
JD

"Bruce Chambers" wrote:

- > Jackie D wrote:
- >> Hi
- >>
- >> I'm selling my laptop and want to clear all my files off first (including
- >> cookies, history etc). Is there a procedure I should follow to ensure nothing
- >> of me remains?
- >>
- >
- >
- > To protect your personal information and data from any future users
- > of average skills, you should, at the very least, format the hard drive
- > and reinstall only the OS and those applications whose licenses are to
- > be included in the transfer. If you wish to do a more thorough job of
- > protecting your personal data, WipeDrive 2.2.1
- > ([http://www.accessdata.com/Product07\\_Overview.htm?ProductNum=07](http://www.accessdata.com/Product07_Overview.htm?ProductNum=07)) meets
- > U.S. DoD standards for securely cleaning surplus unclassified hard

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> drives, and could be used before formatting and reinstalling the OS and  
> applications.  
>  
>  
>> I don't have a windows xp disk (it came already installed) so maybe  
>> reformatting the drive isn't a good idea? Or perhaps it is? I could do with  
>> some guidance.  
>>  
>  
>  
> Even if the laptop's manufacturer didn't provide a WinXP installation  
> CD, they would have had to have provided you some means of returning the  
> laptop to it's original, ex-factory state. Consult the manual that came  
> with the laptop, or the manufacturer's web site for precise instructions.  
>  
>  
> ---  
>  
> Bruce Chambers  
>  
> Help us help you:  
> <http://dts-l.org/goodpost.htm>  
> <http://www.catb.org/~esr/faqs/smart-questions.html>  
>  
> You can have peace. Or you can have freedom. Don't ever count on having  
> both at once. – RAH  
>  
>  
>

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• **References:**

◆ **[Cleaning up laptop for resale](#)**

◇ From: Jackie D

◆ **[Re: Cleaning up laptop for resale](#)**

◇ From: Bruce Chambers

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