

# Lab 4: Perform Disk Encryption

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## Lab Scenario

Disk encryption is a technology that protects the confidentiality of the data stored on a disk by converting it into an unreadable code using disk encryption software or hardware, thus preventing unauthorized users from accessing it. Disk encryption provides confidentiality and privacy using passphrases and hidden volumes. As a professional ethical hacker or pen tester, you should perform disk encryption in order to prevent sensitive information from unauthorized access.

Disk encryption works in a manner similar to text-message encryption and protects data even when the OS is not active. By using an encryption program for the user's disk (Blue Ray, DVD, USB flash drive, External HDD, and Backup), the user can safeguard any or all information burned onto the disk and thus prevent it from falling into the wrong hands. Disk-encryption software scrambles the information burned on the disk into an illegible code. It is only after decryption of the disk information that one can read and use it.

This lab will demonstrate the use of various disk encryption tools to perform this technique.

## Lab Objectives

- Perform disk encryption using VeraCrypt
- Perform disk encryption using BitLocker Drive Encryption
- Perform disk encryption using Rohos Disk Encryption


## Overview of Disk Encryption

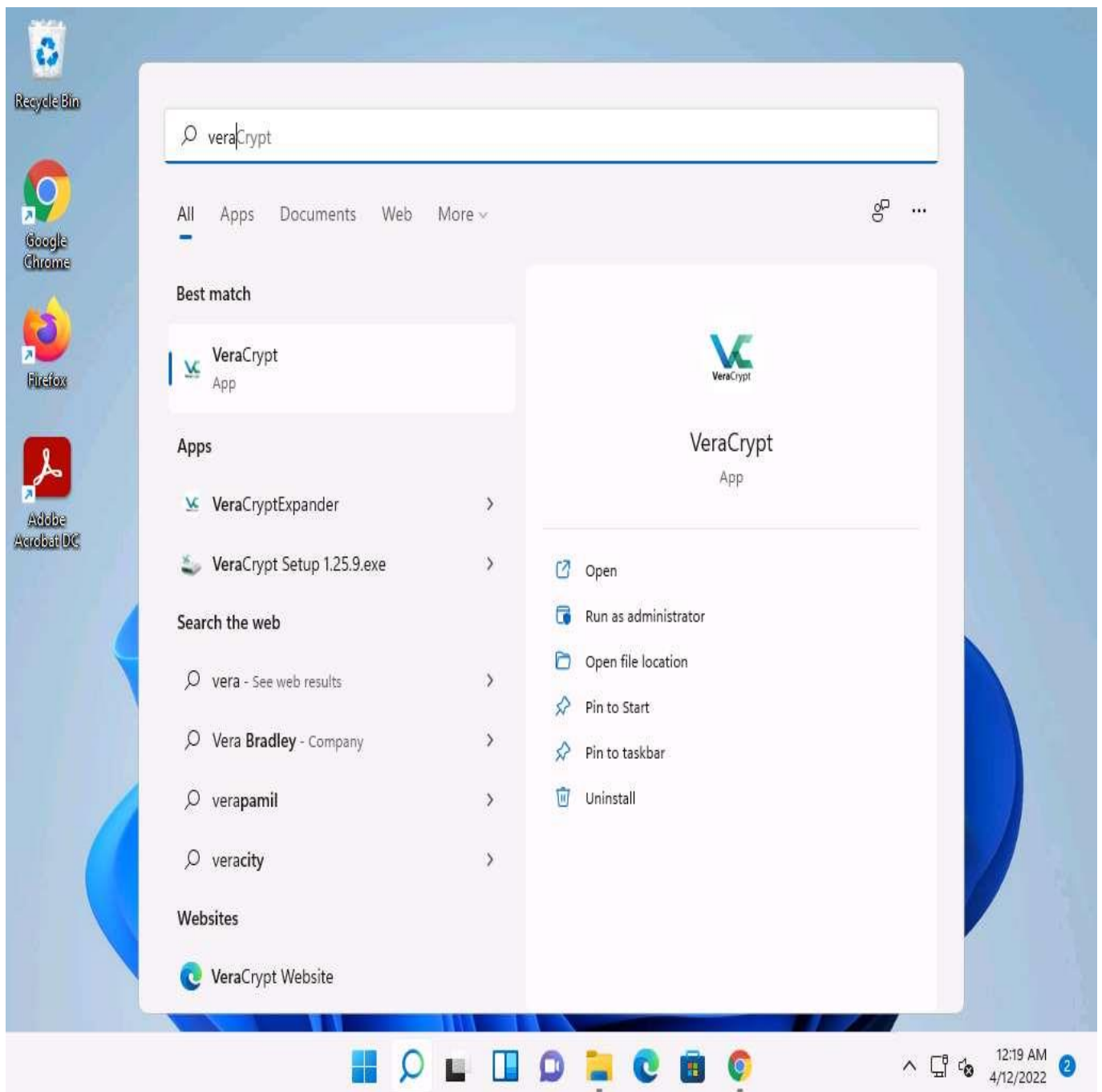
Disk encryption is useful when the user needs to send sensitive information through email. In addition, disk encryption can prevent the real-time exchange of information from threats. When users exchange encrypted information, it minimizes the chances of compromising the data; the only way an attacker could access the information is by decrypting the message. Furthermore, encryption software installed on a user's system ensures the security of the system. Install encryption software on any systems that hold valuable information or on those exposed to unlimited data transfer.

## Task 1: Perform Disk Encryption using VeraCrypt

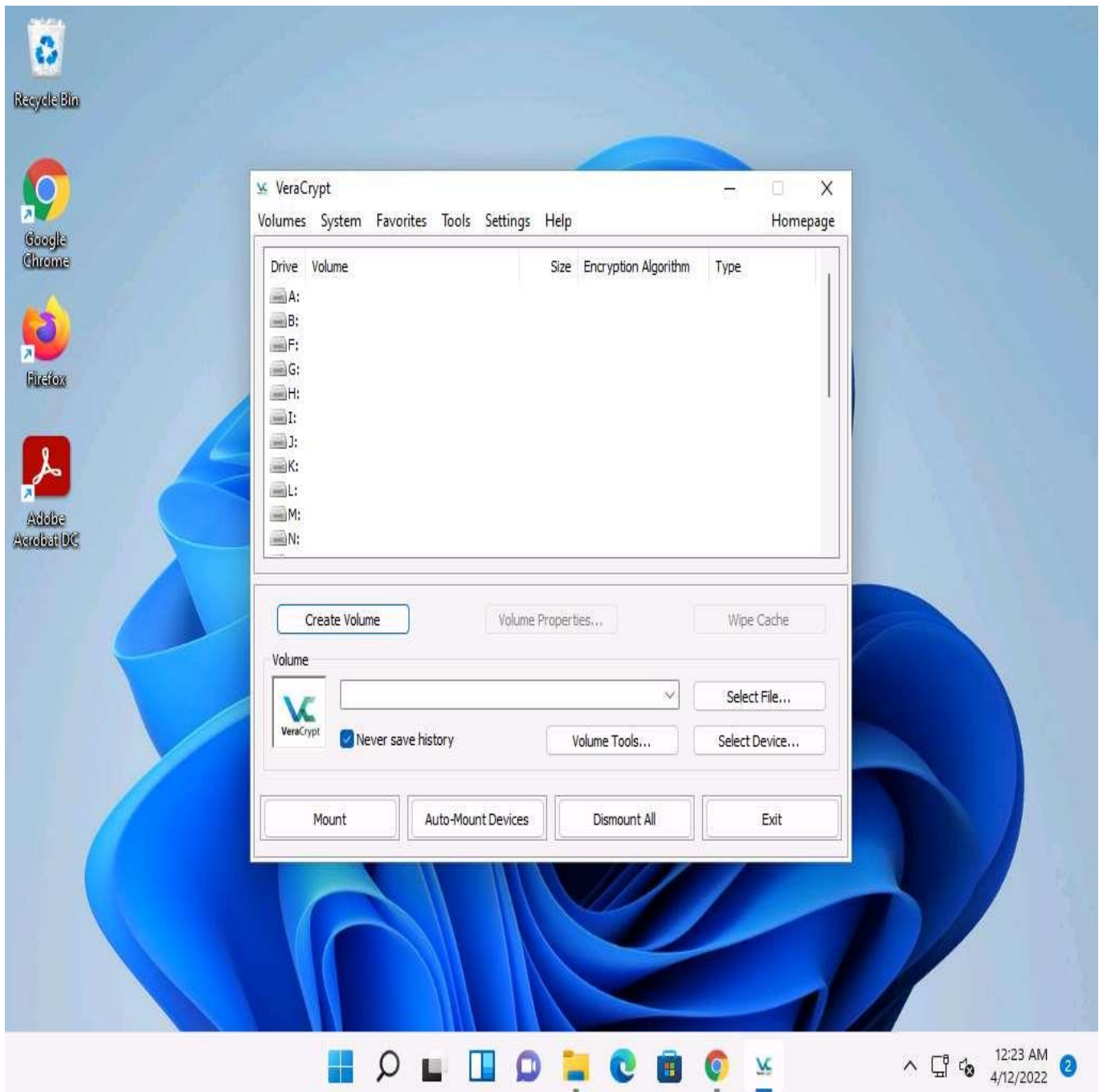
VeraCrypt is a software used for establishing and maintaining an on-the-fly-encrypted volume (data storage device). On-the-fly encryption means that data is automatically encrypted just before it is saved, and decrypted just after it is loaded, without any user intervention. No data stored on an encrypted volume can be read (decrypted) without using the correct password/keyfile(s) or correct encryption keys. The entire file system is encrypted (e.g., file names, folder names, free space, metadata, etc.).

Here, we will use the VeraCrypt tool to perform disk encryption.

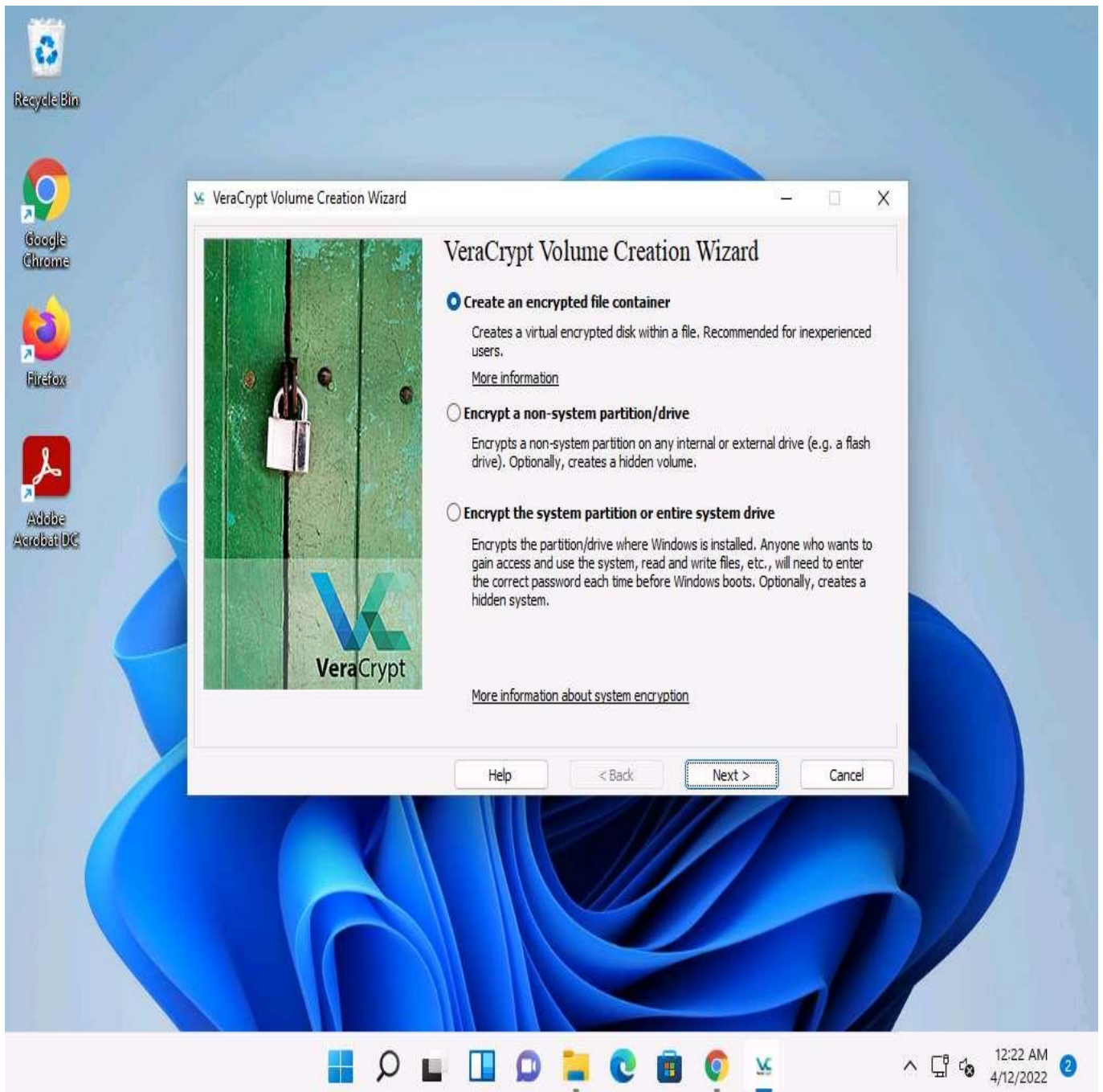
1. ☐ Click [Windows 11](#) to switch to the **Windows 11** machine.
2. ☐ Click **Search** icon (  ) on the **Desktop**. Type **vera** in the search field, the **VeraCrypt** appears in the results, click **Open** to launch it.



3. ☐ The **VeraCrypt** main window appears; click the **Create Volume** button.

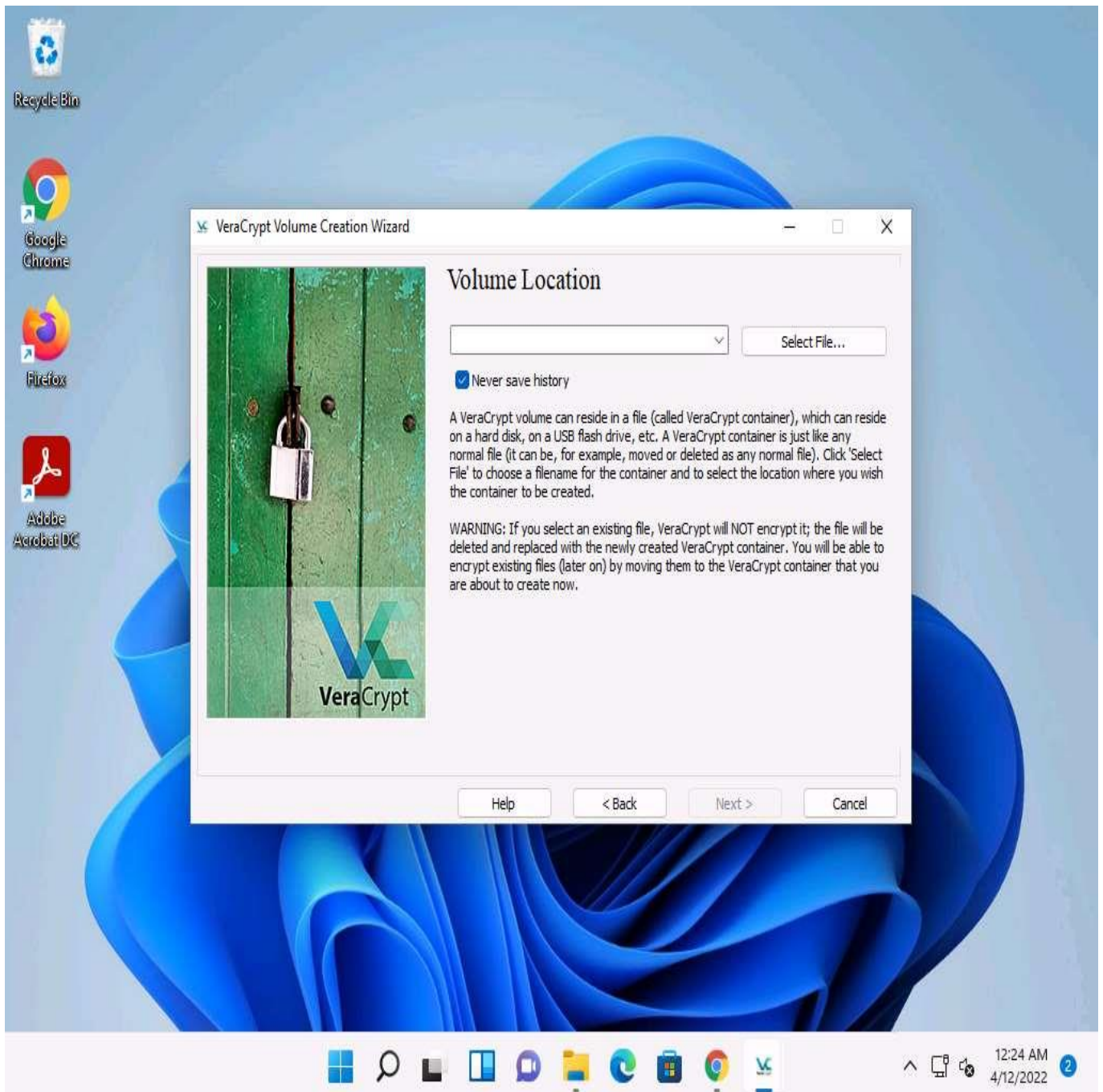


4. ☐ The **VeraCrypt Volume Creation Wizard** window appears. Ensure that the **Create an encrypted file container** radio-button is selected and click **Next** to proceed.

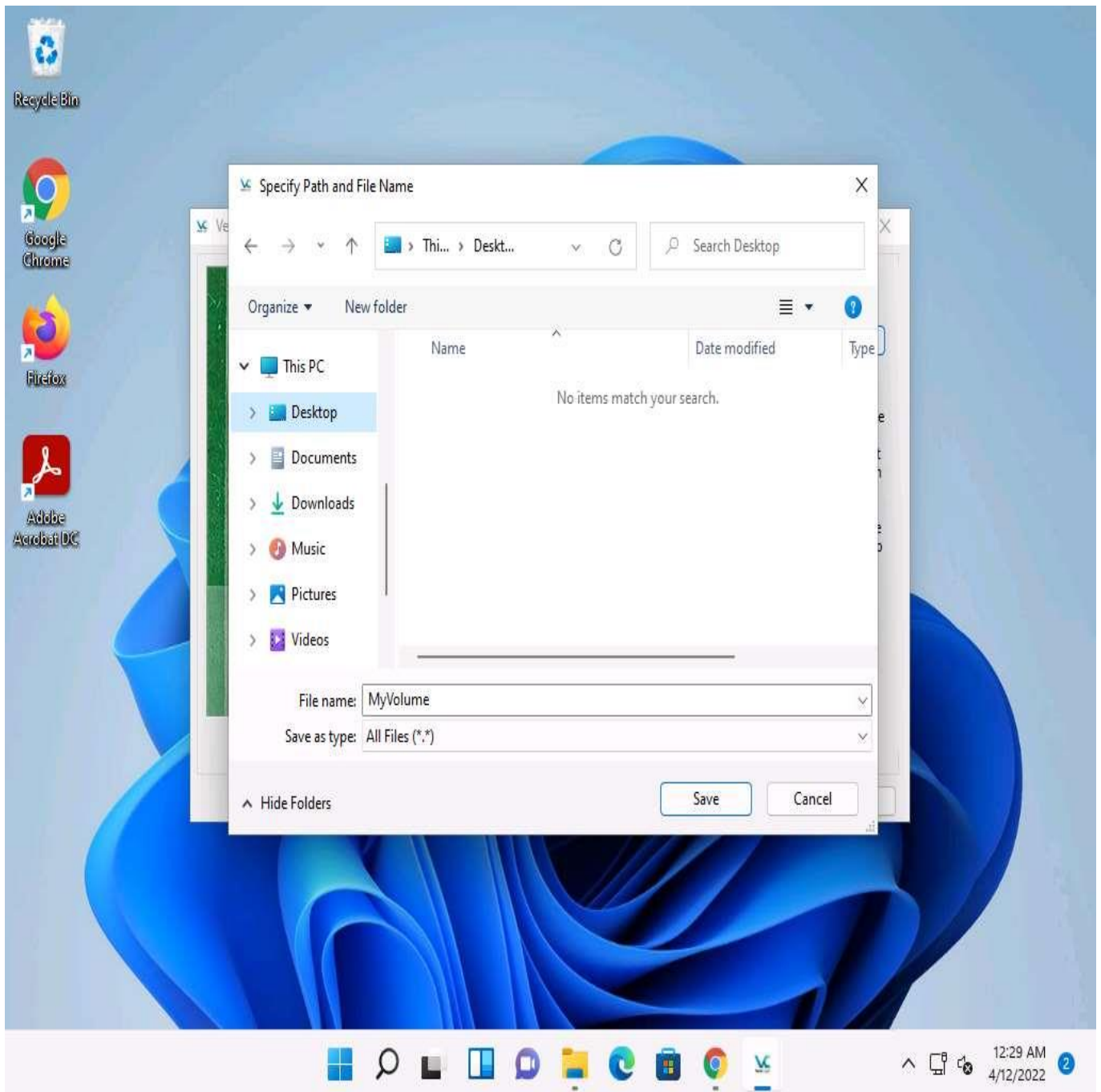


5. ☐ In the **Volume Type** wizard, keep the default settings and click **Next**.
6. ☐ In the **Volume Location** wizard, click **Select File....**

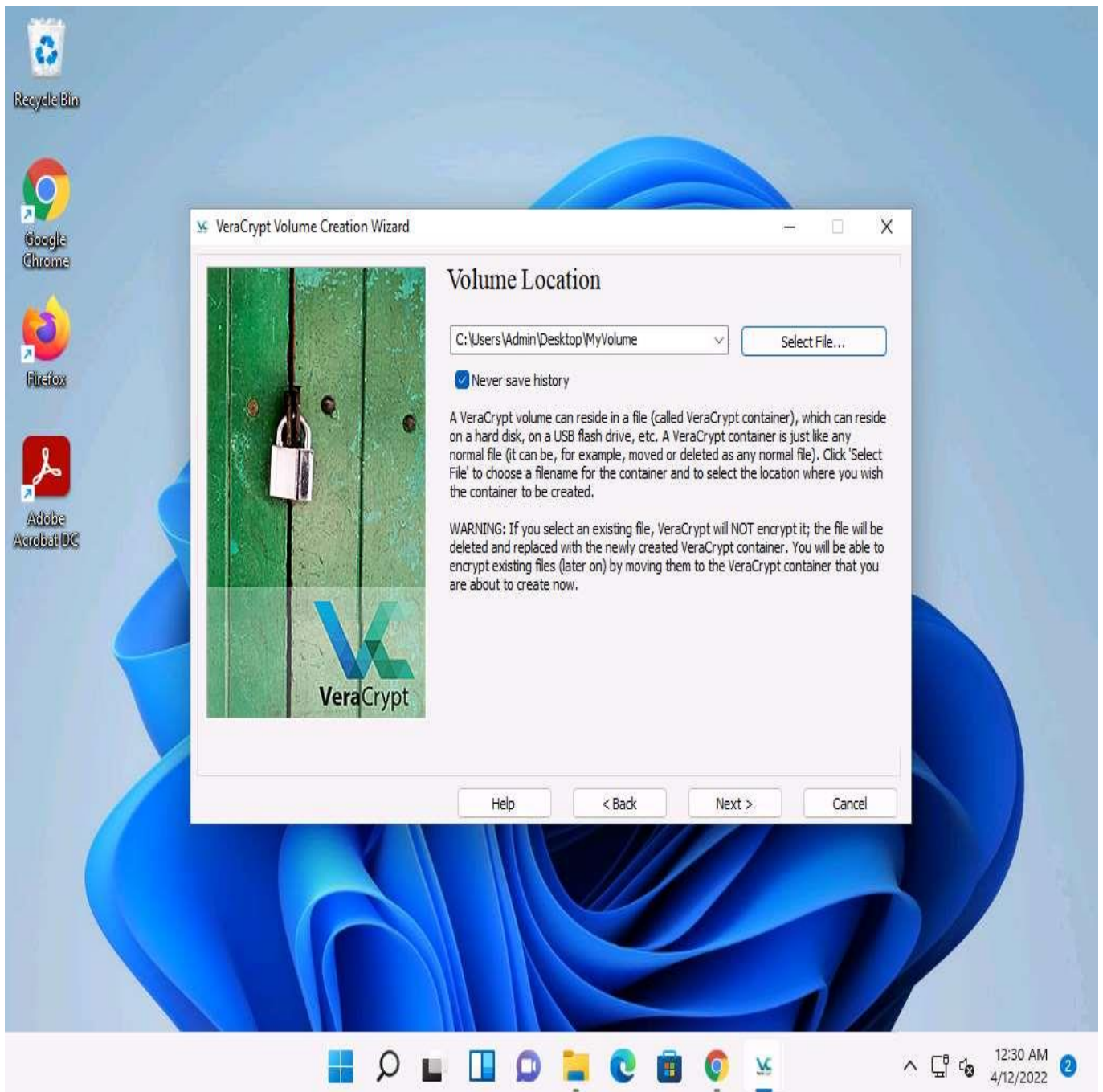




7. ☐ The **Specify Path and File Name** window appears; navigate to the desired location (here, **Desktop**), provide the **File name** as **MyVolume**, and click **Save**.

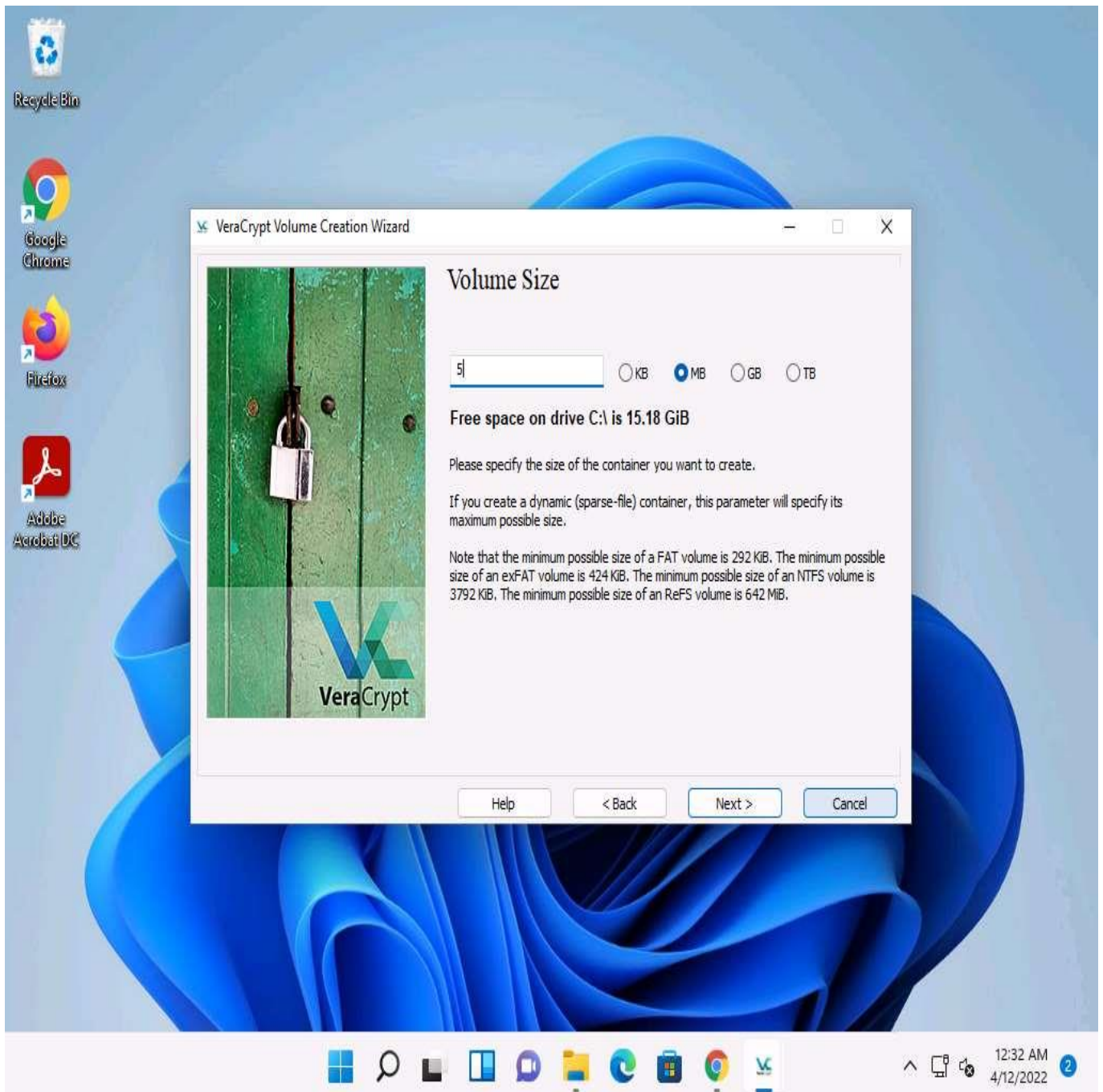


8. ☐ After saving the file, the location of a file containing the **VeraCrypt** volume appears under the **Volume Location** field; then, click **Next**.



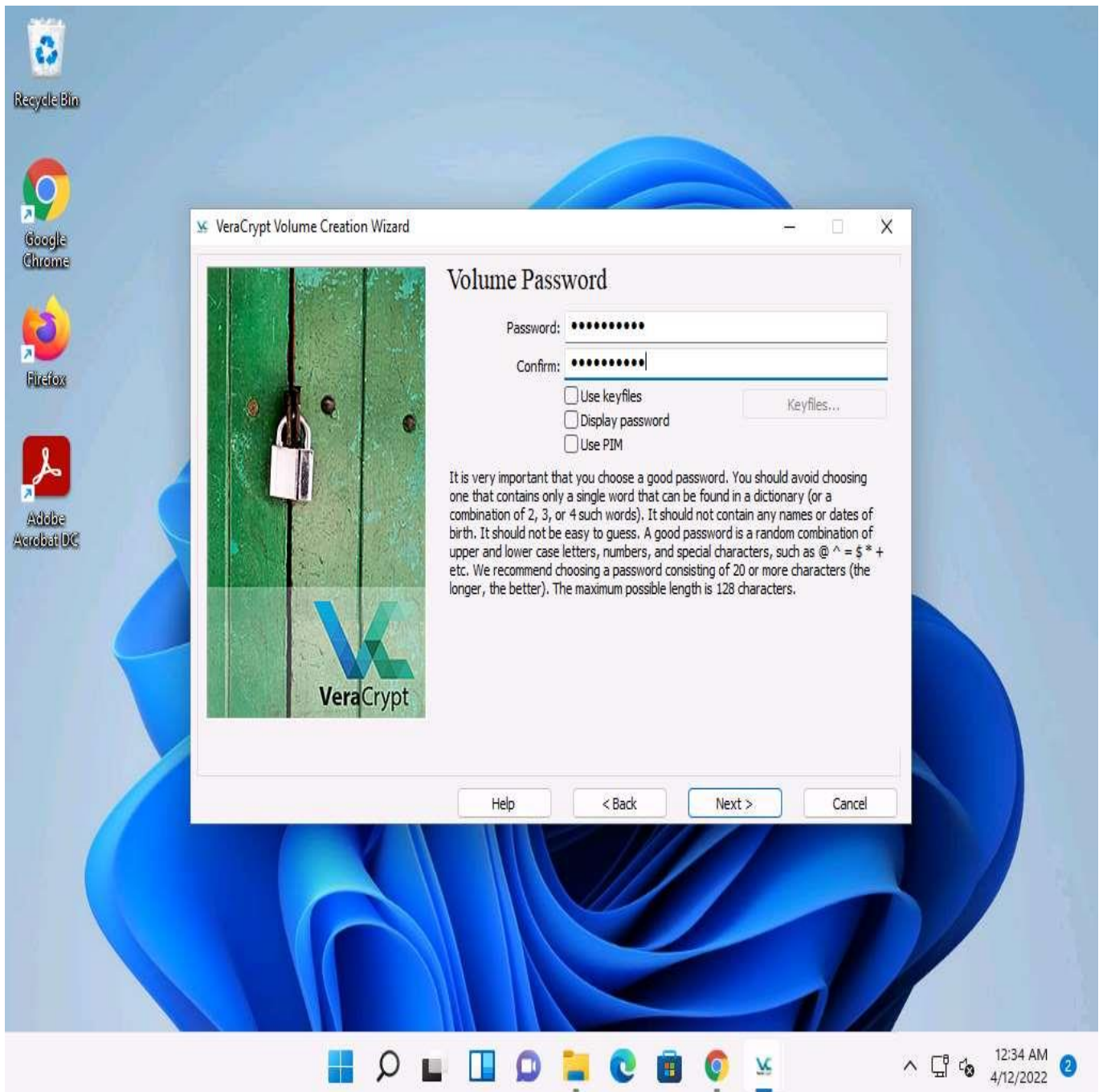
9. ☐ In the **Encryption Options** wizard, keep the default settings and click **Next**.
10. ☐ In the **Volume Size** wizard, ensure that the **MB** radio-button is selected and specify the size of the VeraCrypt container as **5**; then, click **Next**.





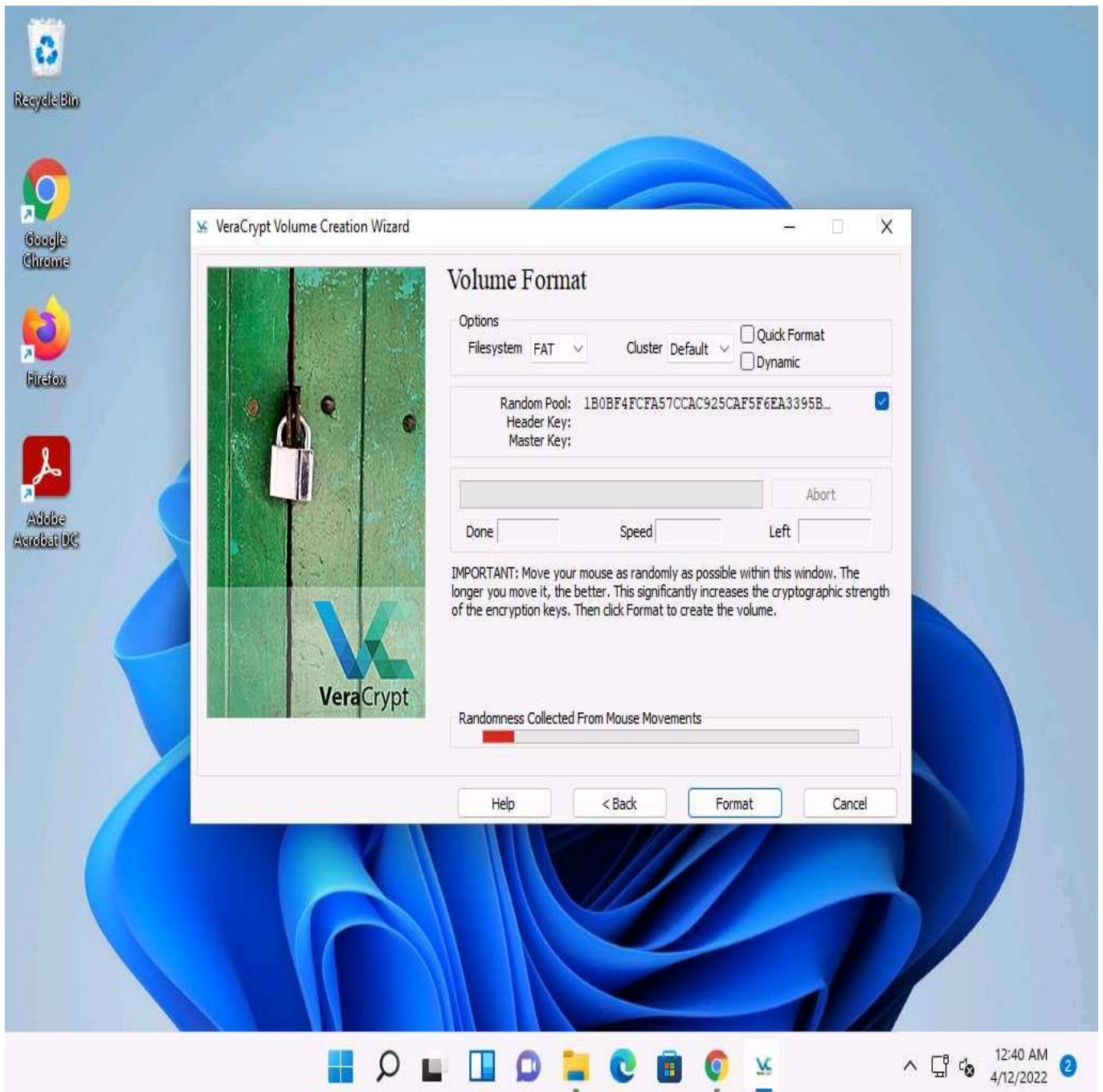
11. ☐ The **Volume Password** wizard appears; provide a strong password in the **Password** field, retype in the **Confirm** field, and click **Next**. The password provided in this lab is **qwerty@123**.



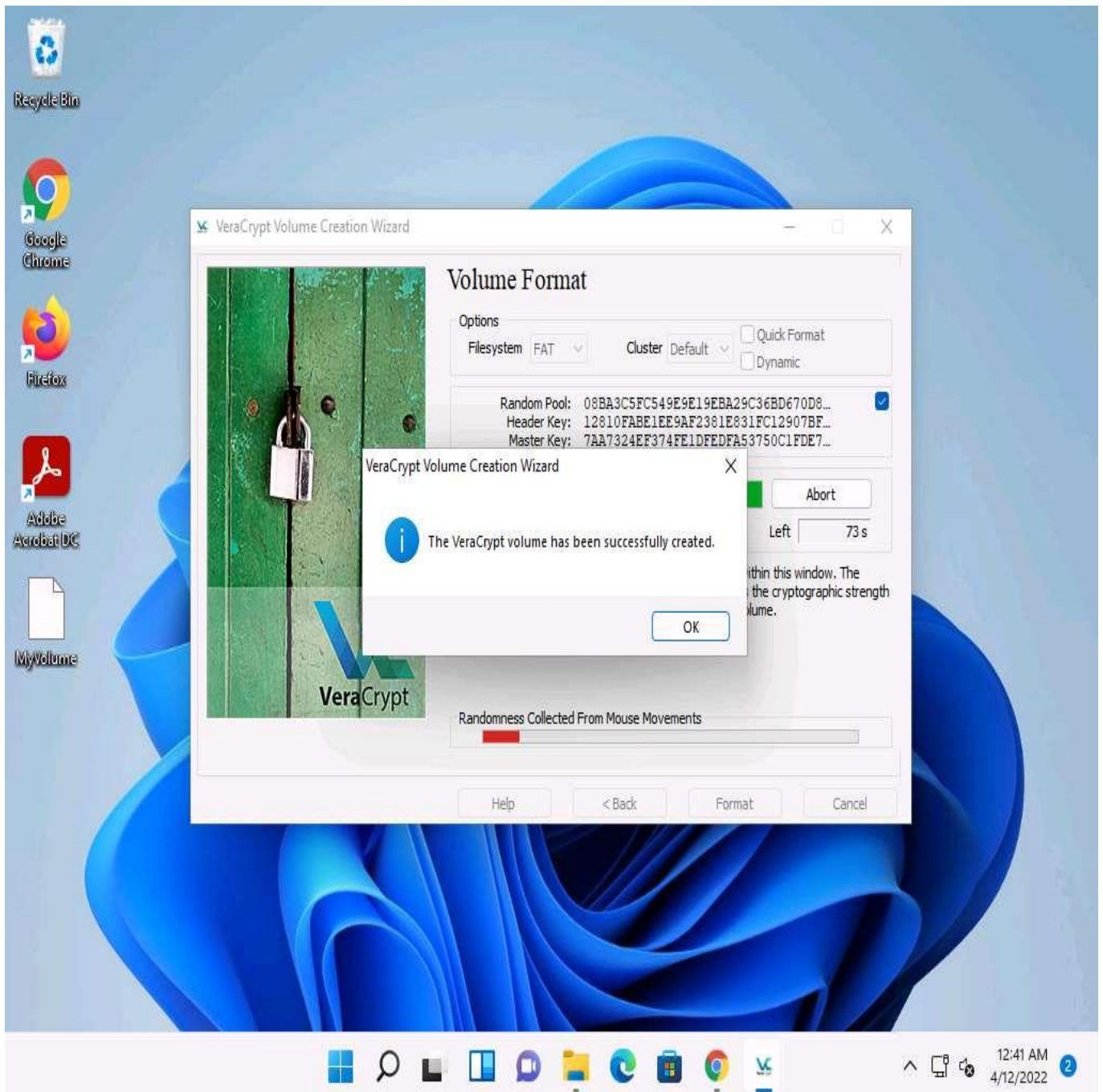


A **VeraCrypt Volume Creation Wizard** warning pop-up appears; then, click **Yes**.

12. ☐ The **Volume Format** wizard appears; ensure that **FAT** is selected in the **Filesystem** option and **Default** is selected in **Cluster** option.
13. ☐ Check the checkbox under the **Random Pool**, **Header Key**, and **Master Key** section.
14. ☐ Move your mouse as randomly as possible within the **Volume Creation Wizard** window for at least **30 seconds** and click the **Format** button.

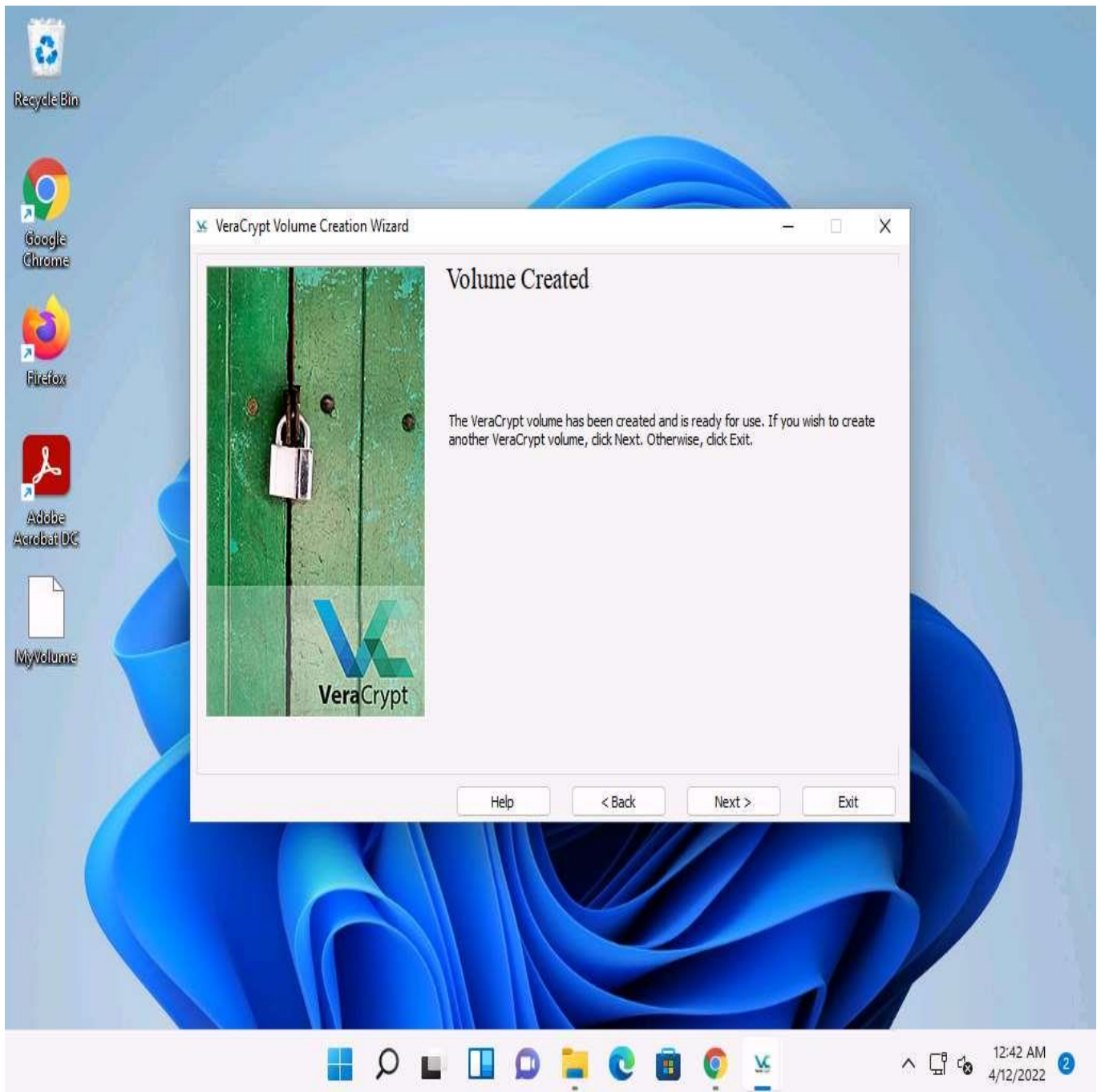


15. ☐ After clicking **Format**, VeraCrypt will create a file called **MyVolume** in the provided folder. This file depends on the VeraCrypt container (it will contain the encrypted VeraCrypt volume).
16. ☐ Depending on the size of the volume, volume creation may take some time.
17. ☐ Once the volume is created, a **VeraCrypt Volume Creation Wizard** dialog-box appears; click **OK**.



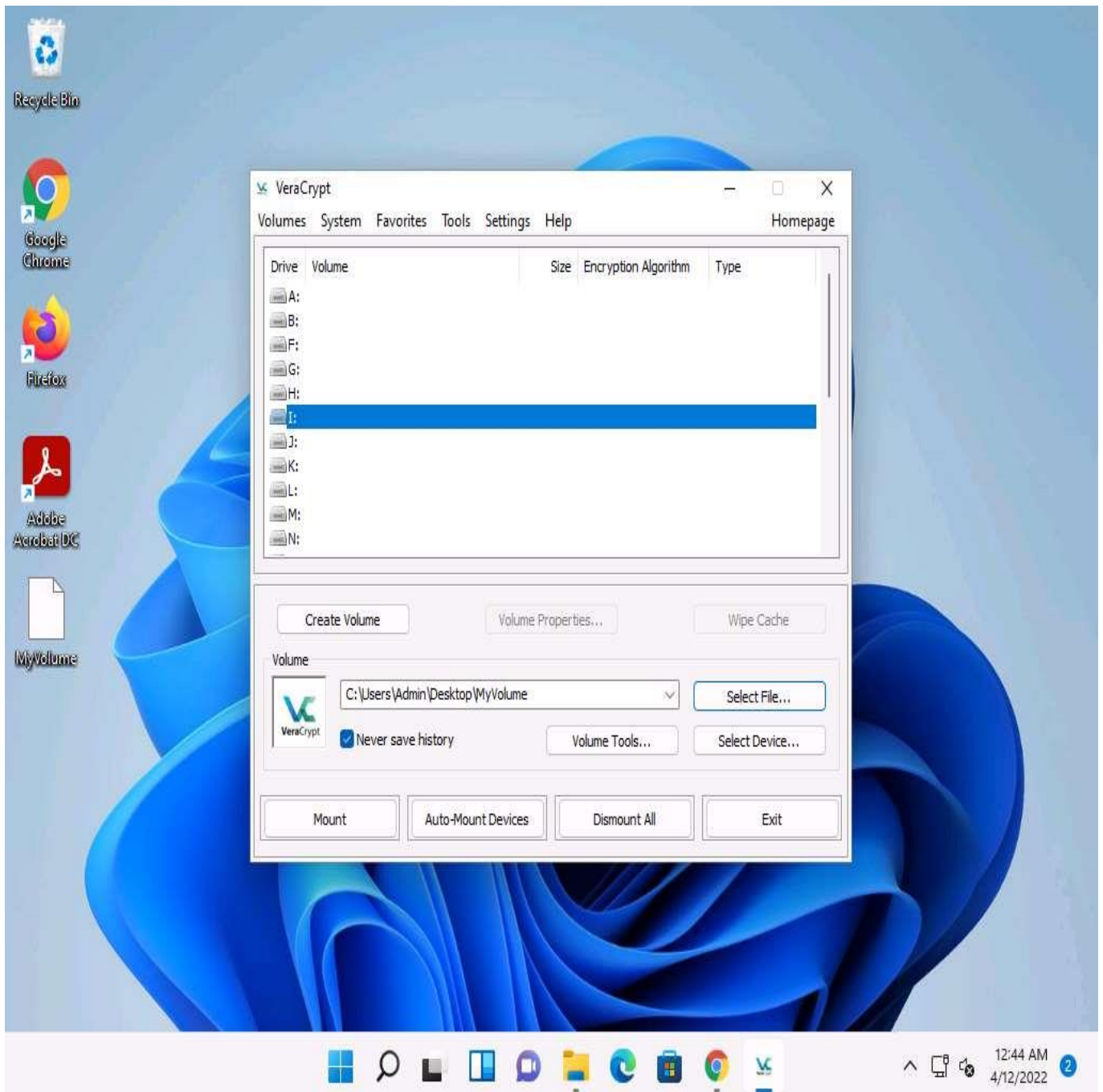
18. ☐ In the **VeraCrypt Volume Creation Wizard** window, a **Volume Created** message appears; then, click **Exit**.



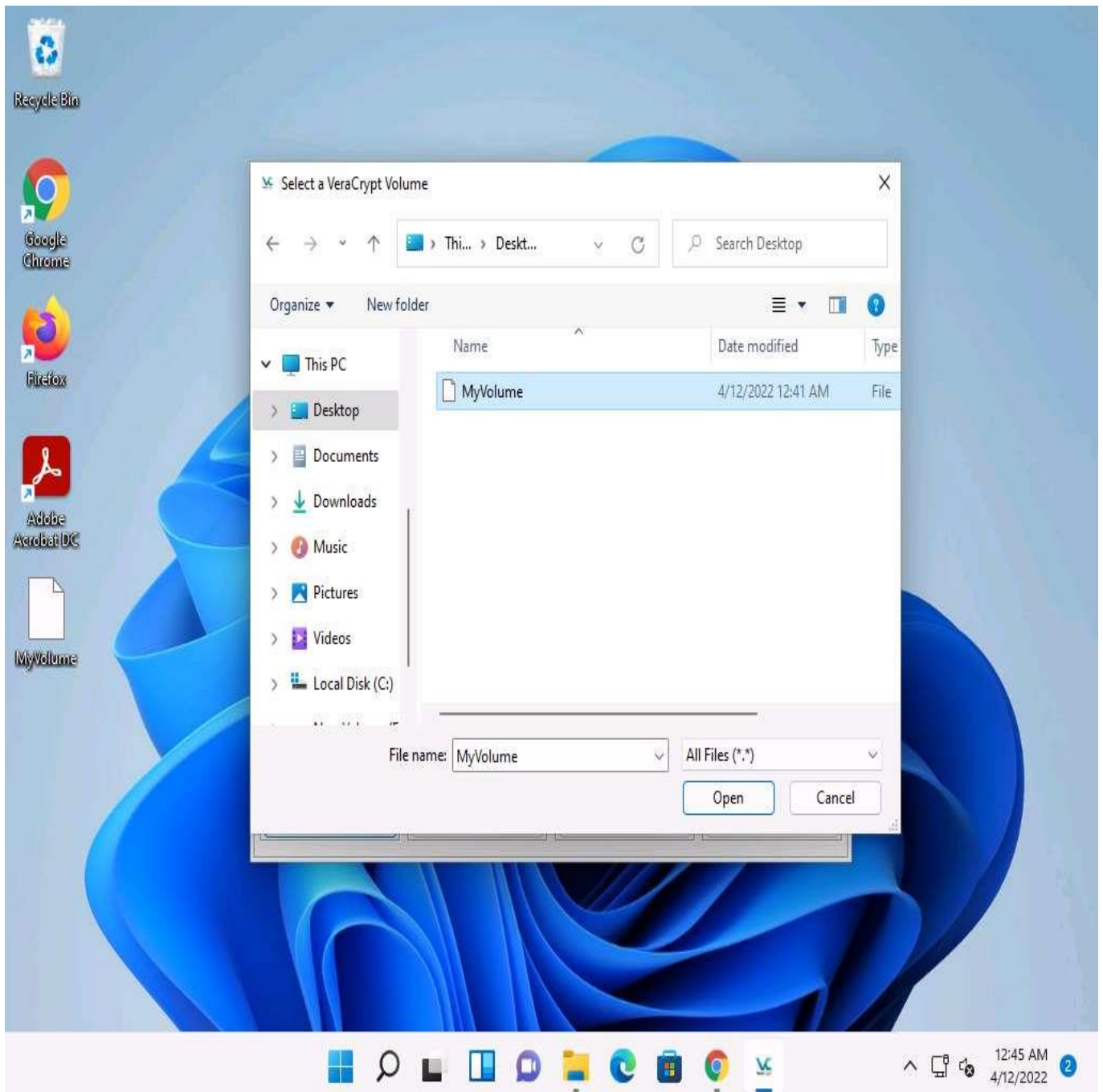


19. ☐ The **VeraCrypt** main window appears; select a drive (here, **I:**) and click **Select File....**

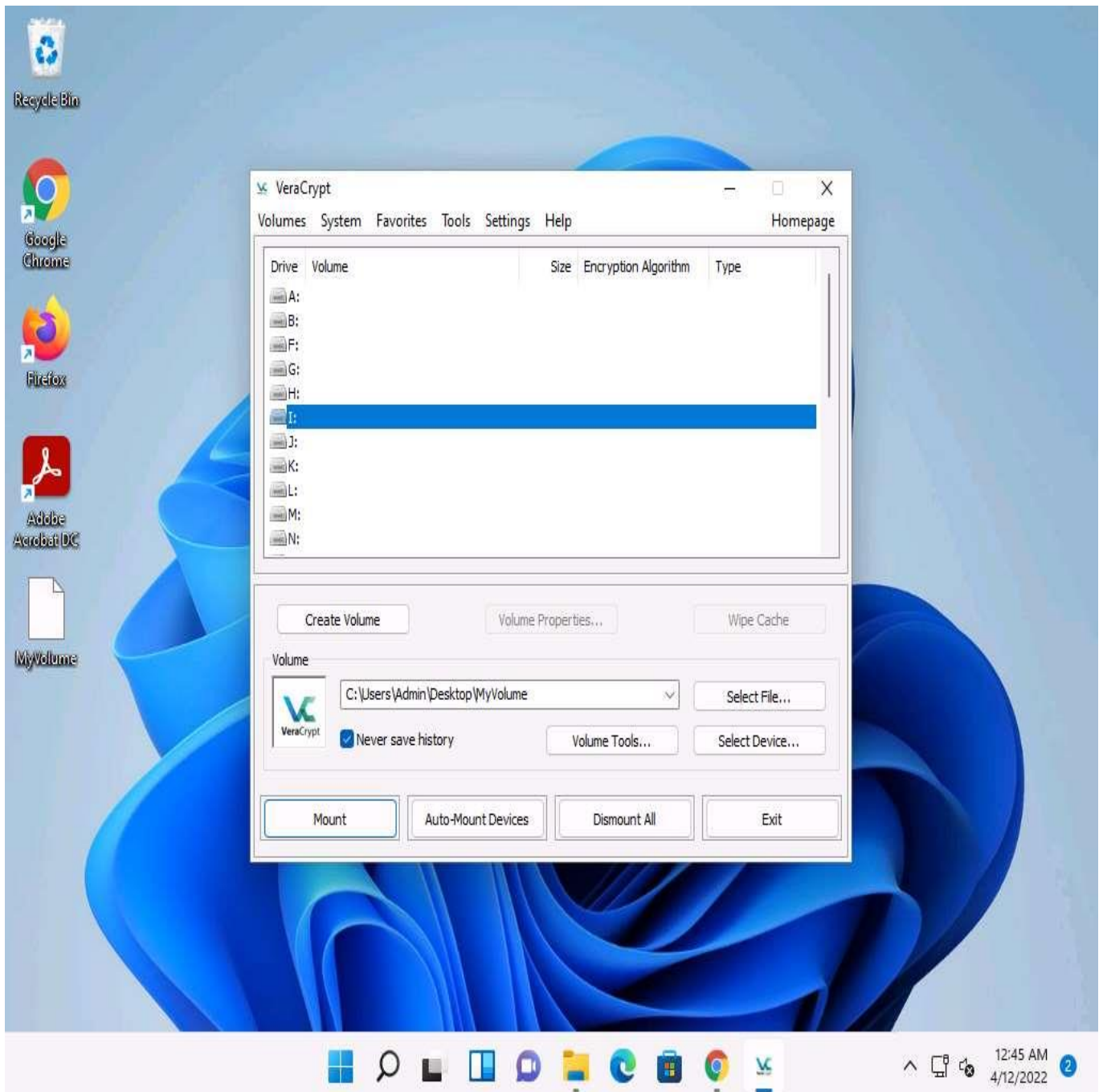




20. ☐ The **Select a VeraCrypt Volume** window appears; navigate to **Desktop**, click **MyVolume**, and click **Open**.

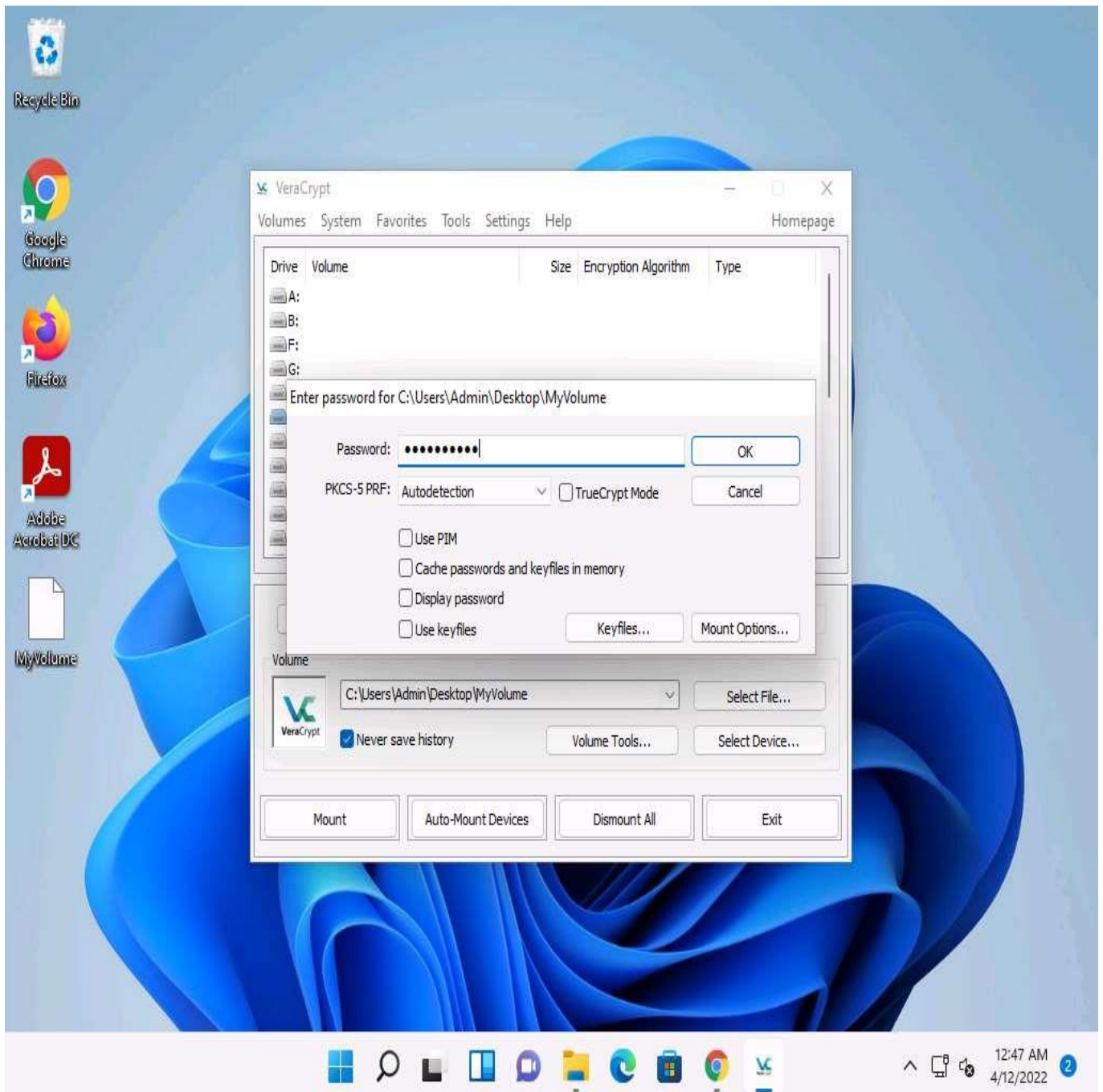


21. ☐ The window closes, and the **VeraCrypt** window appears displaying the location of selected **volume** under the Volume field; then, click **Mount**.



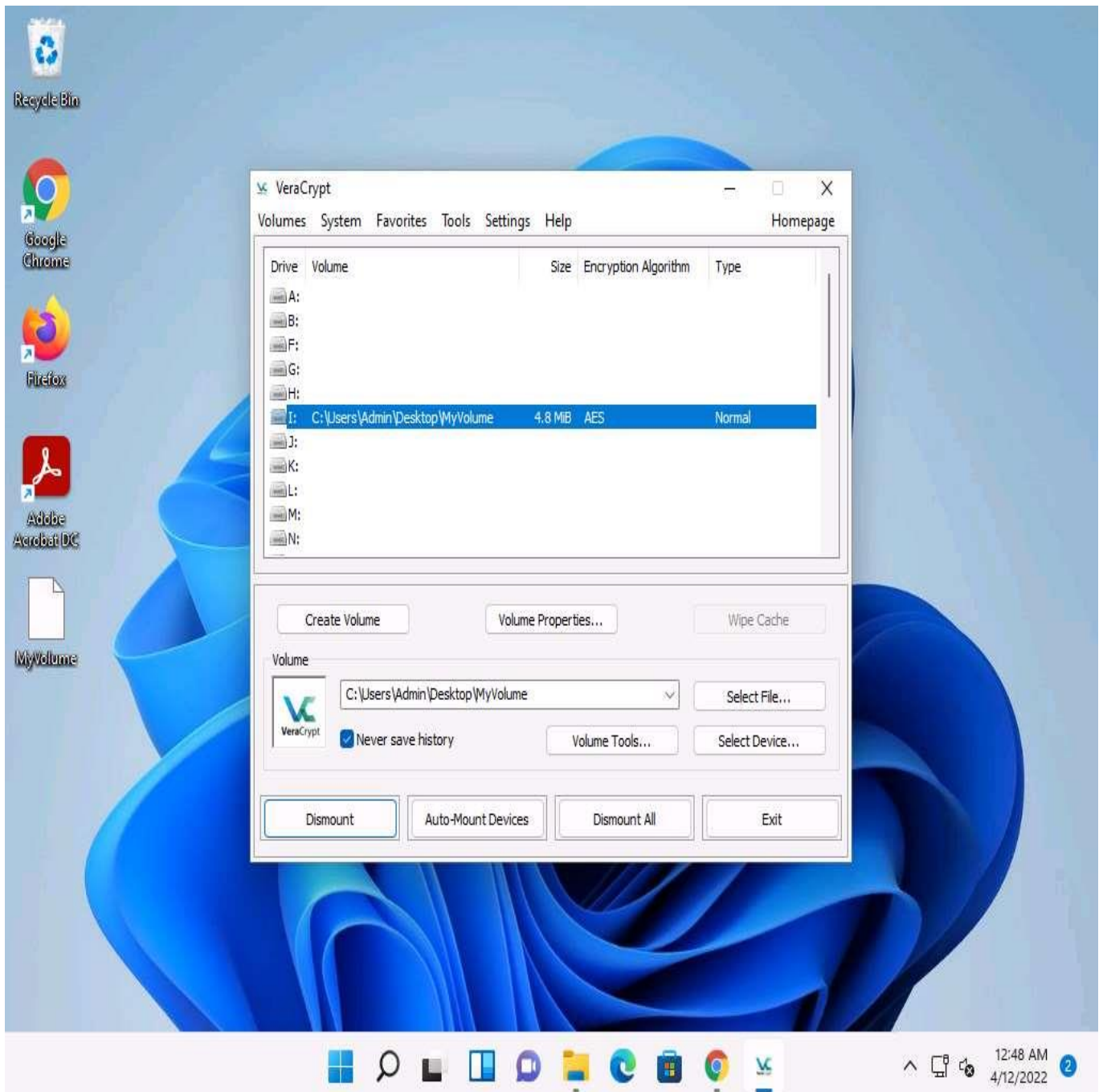
22. ☐ The **Enter password** dialog-box appears; type the password you specified in **Step#11** into the **Password** field and click **OK**.

The password specified in this task is **qwerty@123**.

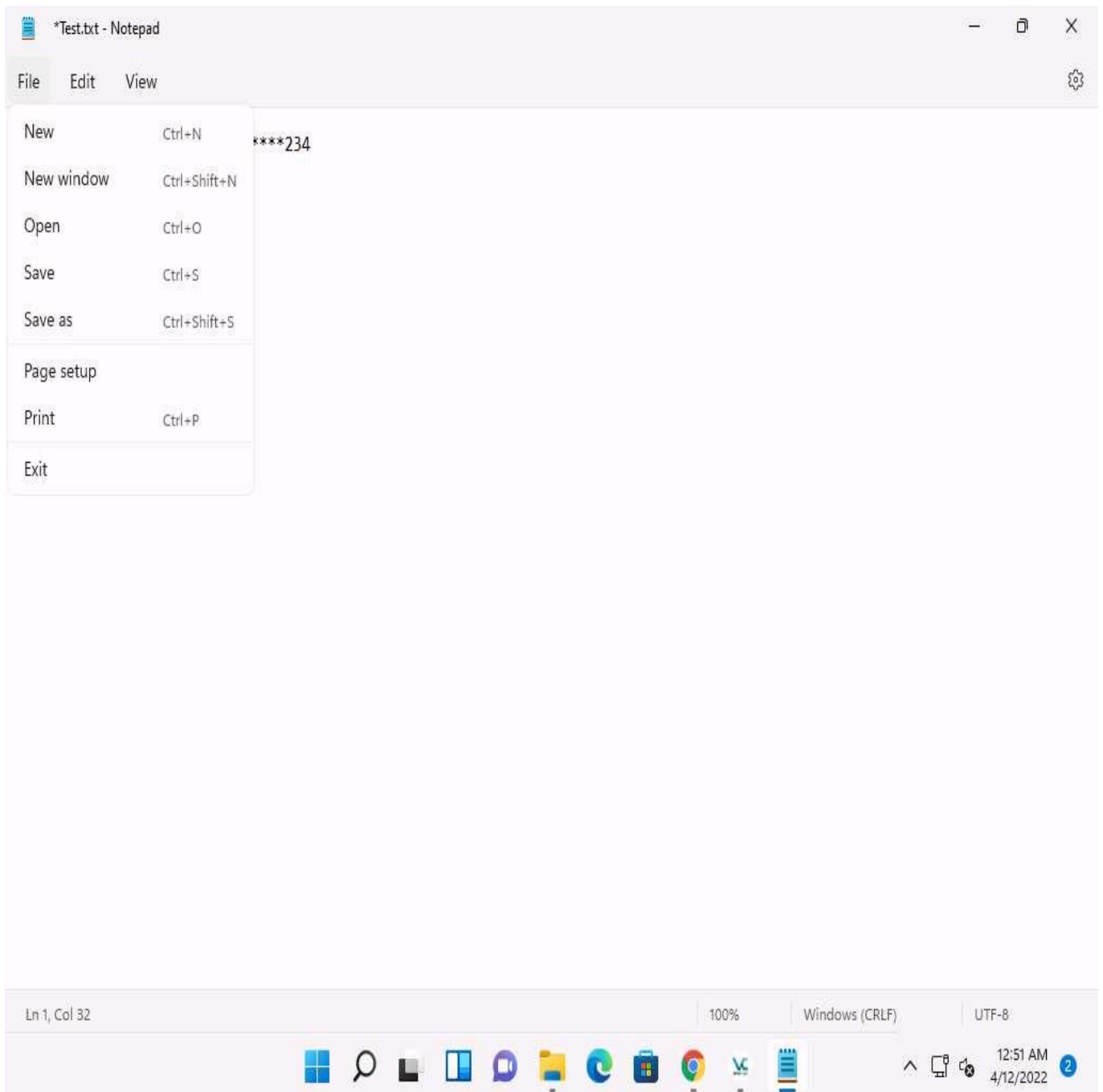


23. ☐ After the password is verified, **VeraCrypt** will mount the volume in **I:** drive, as shown in the screenshot:

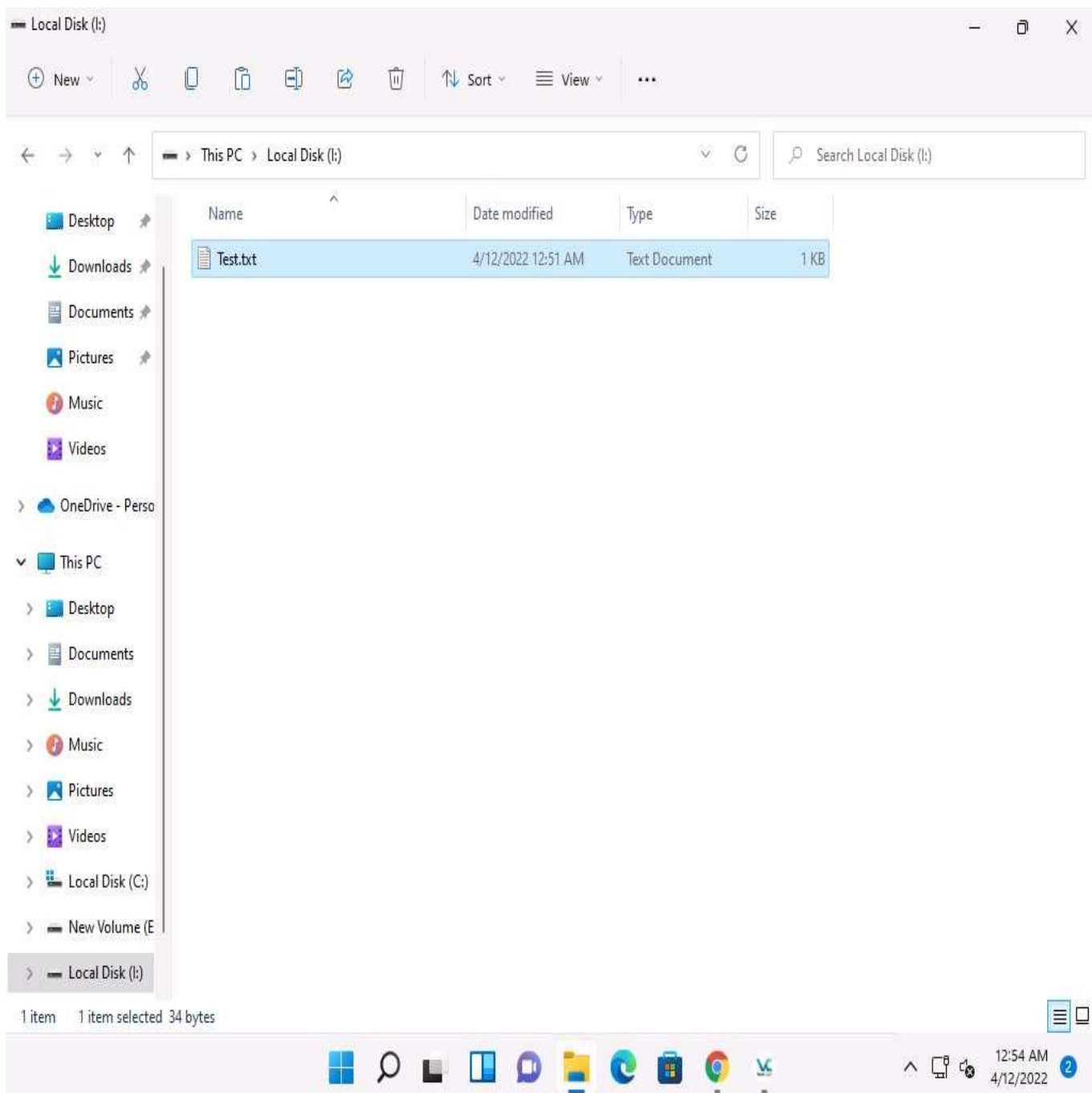




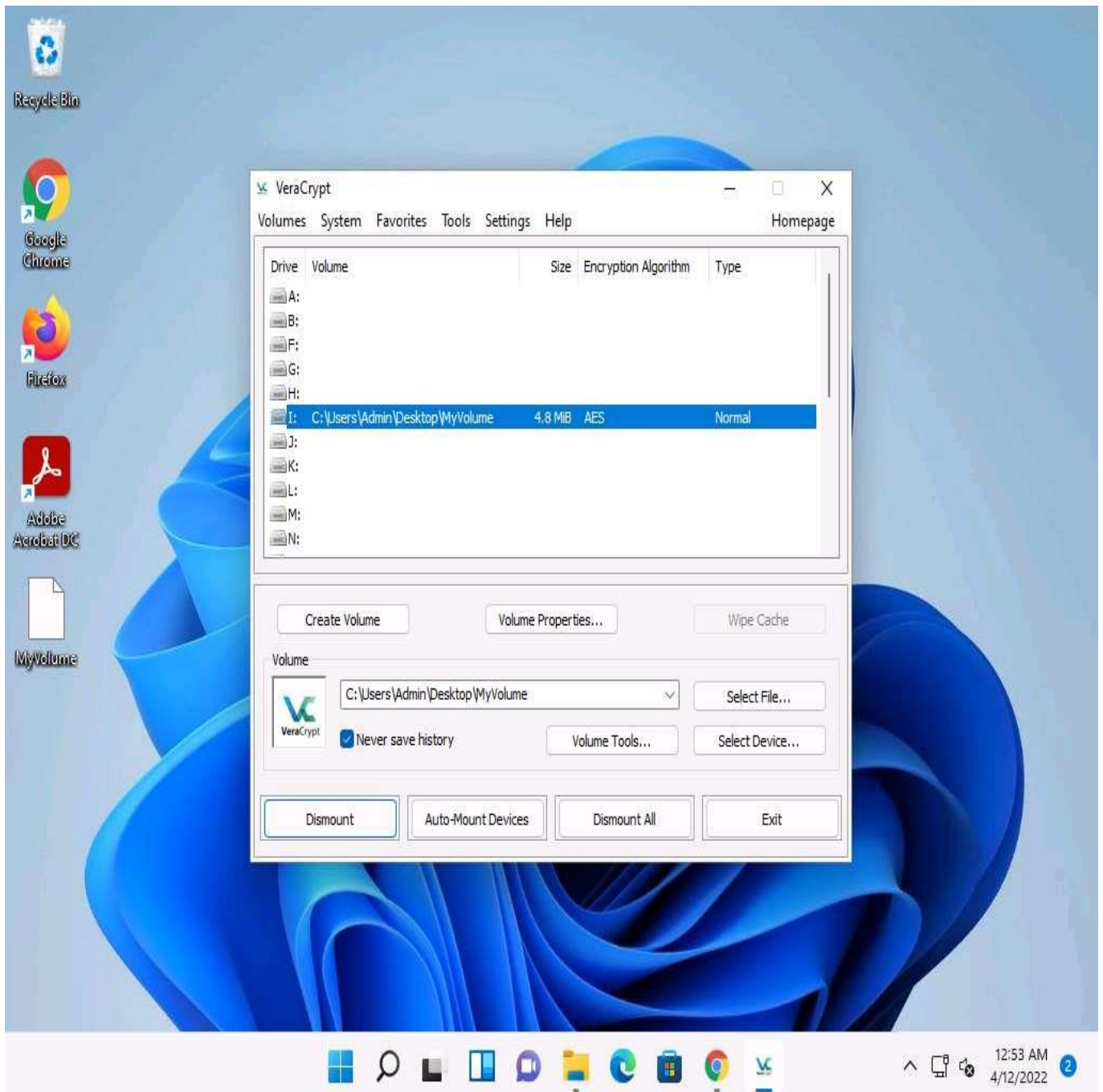
24. ☐ **MyVolume** has successfully mounted the container as a virtual disk (**I:**). The virtual disk is entirely encrypted (including file names, allocation tables, free space, etc.) and behaves similarly to a real disk. You can copy or move files to this virtual disk to encrypt them.
25. ☐ Create a text file on **Desktop** and name it **Test**. Open the text file and insert text.
26. ☐ Click **File** in the menu bar and click **Save**.



27. ☐ Copy the file from **Desktop** and paste it into **Local Disk (I:)**. Close the window.



28. ☐ Switch to the **VeraCrypt** window, click **Dismount**, and then click **Exit**.



29. ☐ The **I:** drive located in **This PC** disappears.

This lab is used to demonstrate that, in cases of system hacks, if an attacker manages to gain remote access or complete access to the machine, he/she will not be able to find the encrypted volume—including its files—unless he/she is able to obtain the password. Thus, all sensitive information located on the encrypted volume is safeguarded.

30. ☐ This concludes the demonstration of performing disk encryption using VeraCrypt.
31. ☐ Close all open windows and document all the acquired information.


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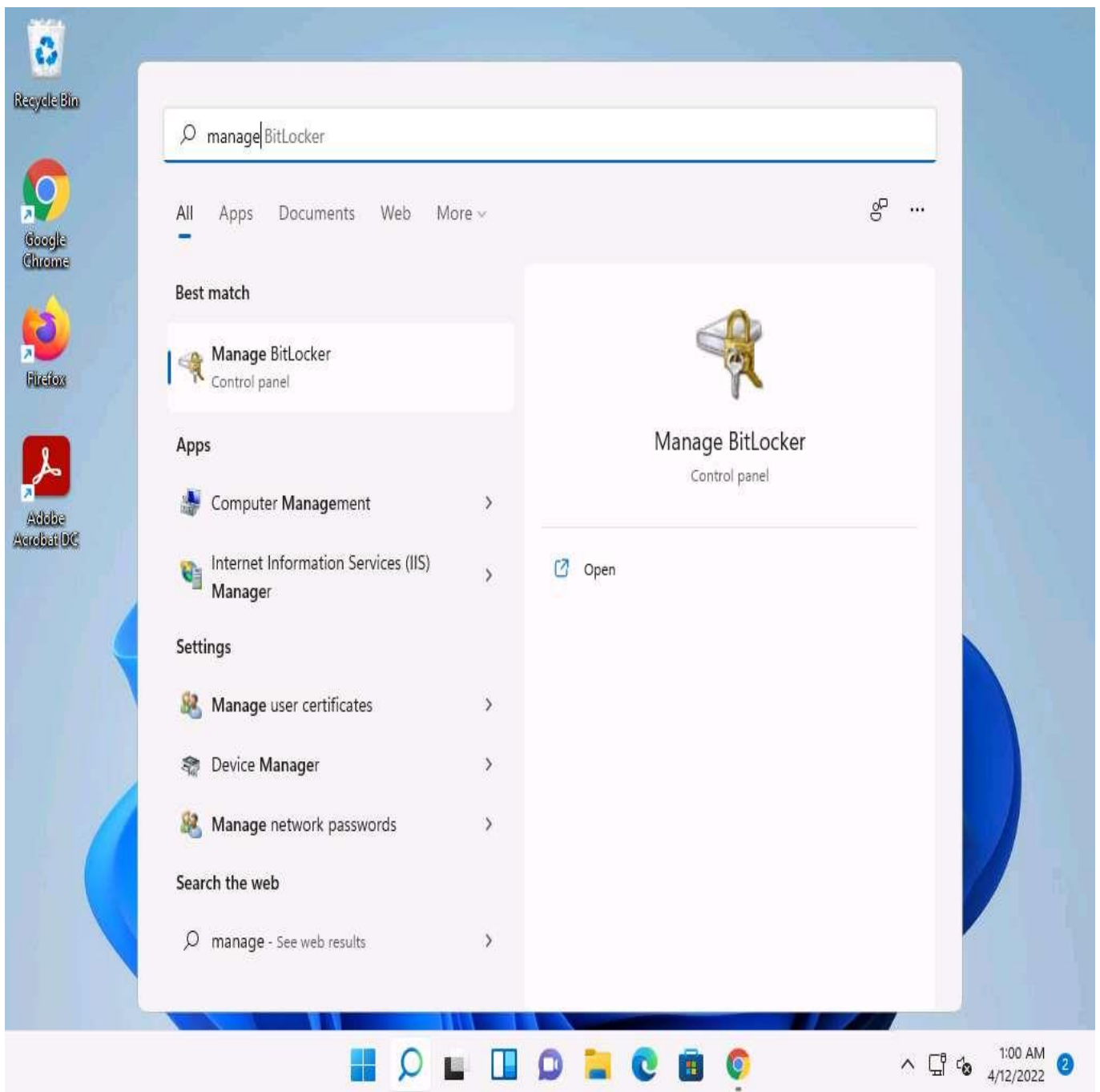
## Task 2: Perform Disk Encryption using BitLocker Drive Encryption



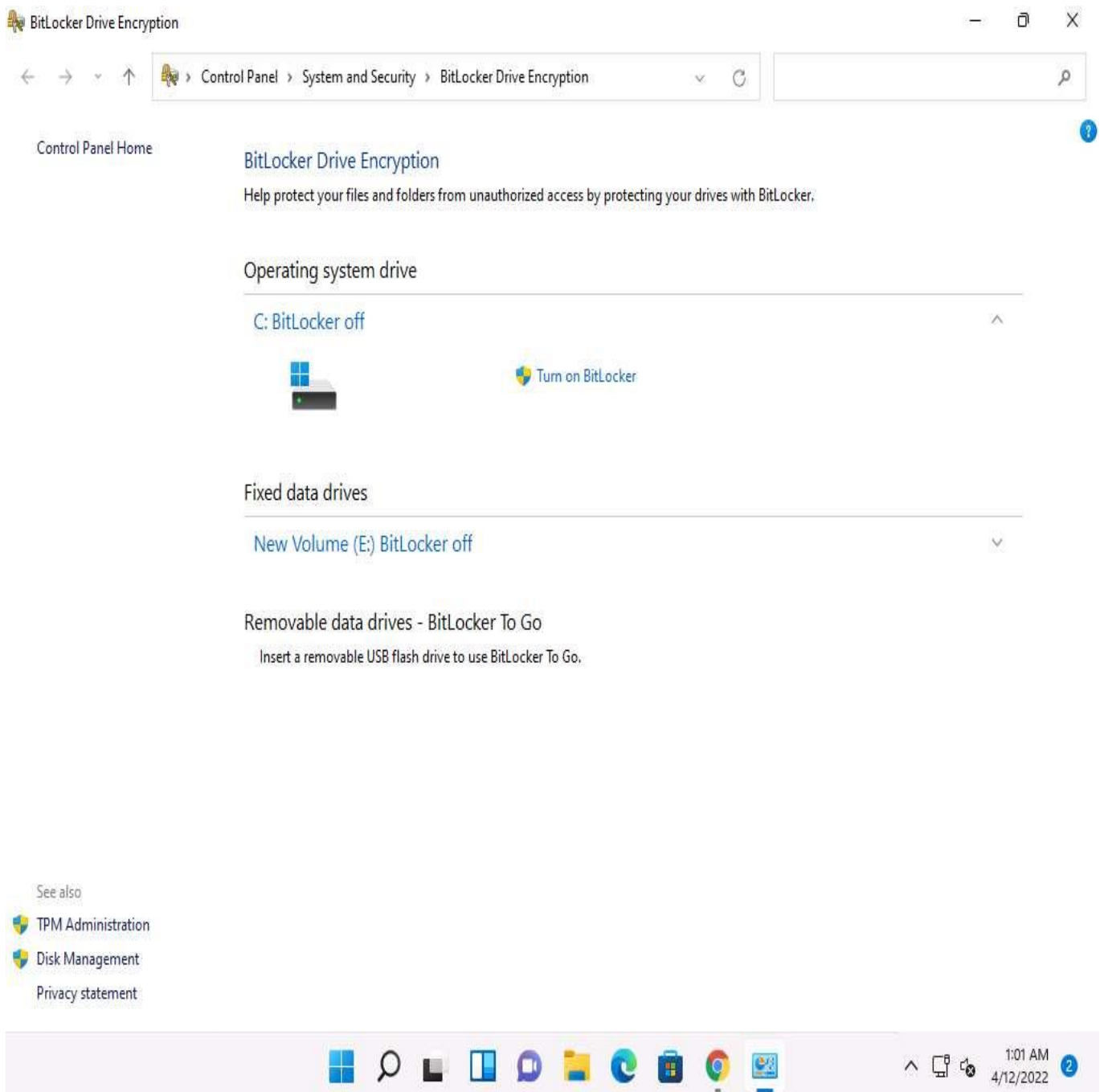
BitLocker provides offline-data and OS protection for your computer, and helps to ensure that data stored on a computer that is running Windows® is not revealed if the computer is tampered with when the installed OS is offline. BitLocker uses a microchip that is called a Trusted Platform Module (TPM) to provide enhanced protection for your data and to preserve early boot-component integrity. The TPM can help protect your data from theft or unauthorized viewing by encrypting the entire Windows volumes.

Here, we will perform disk encryption using BitLocker Drive Encryption.

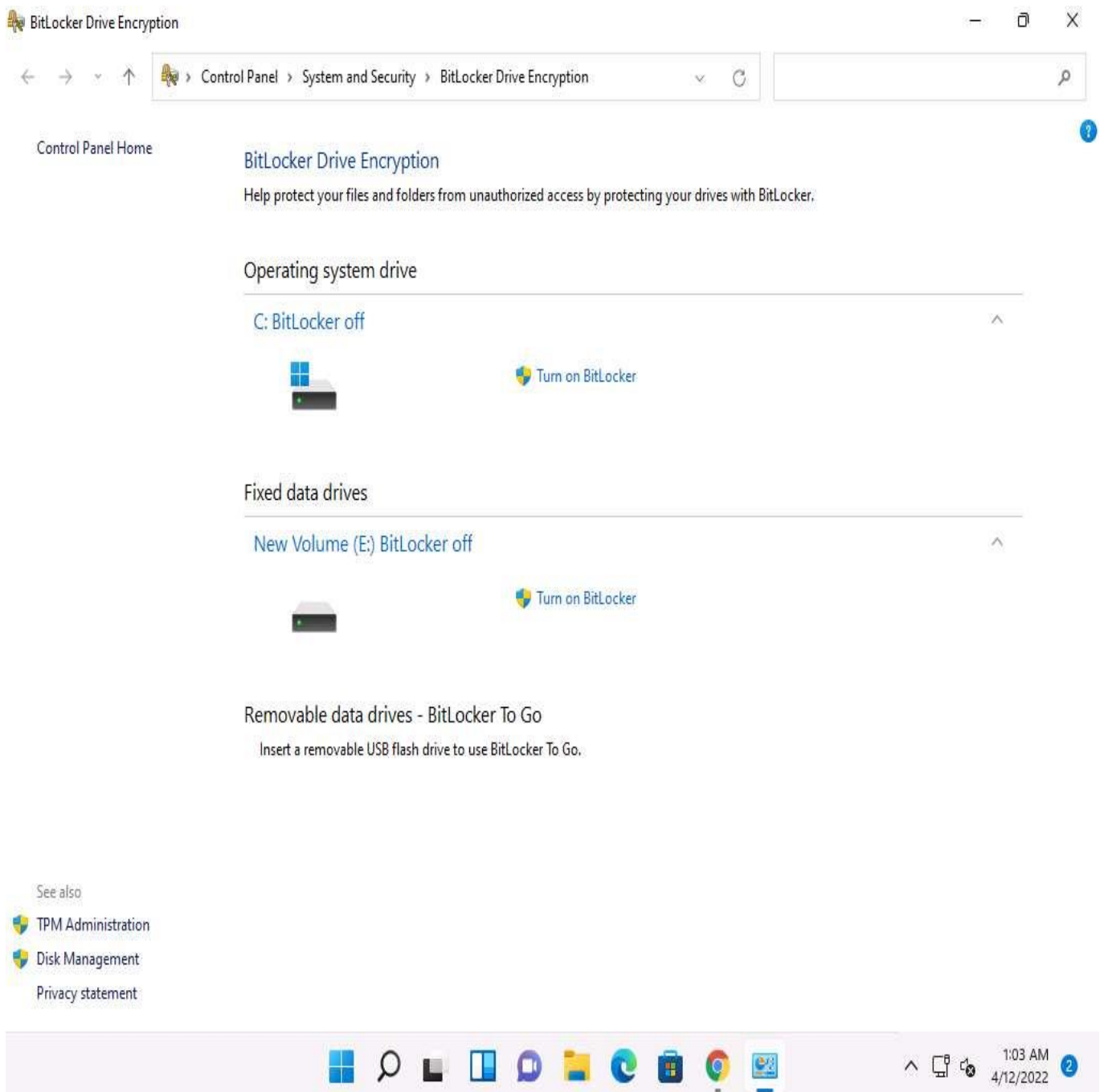
1. ☐ Click **Search** icon (  ) on the **Desktop**. Type **manage** in the search field, the **Manage BitLocker** appears in the results, click **Open** to launch it.



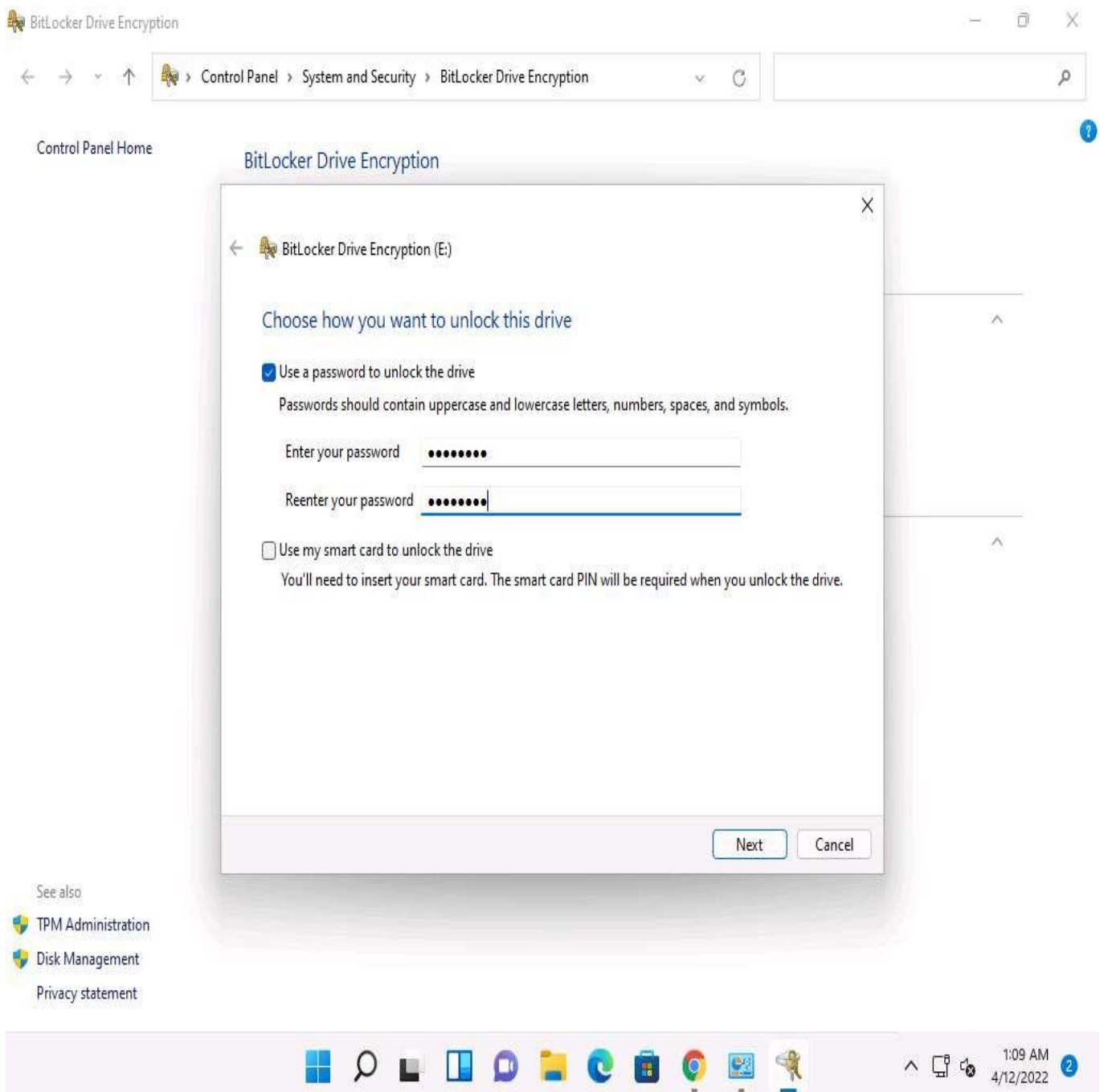
2. ☐ The **BitLocker Drive Encryption** window appears; click the **New Volume (E:) BitLocker off** option under the **Fixed data drives** section.



3. ☐ Click the **Turn on BitLocker** option under **New Volume (E:) BitLocker off**.

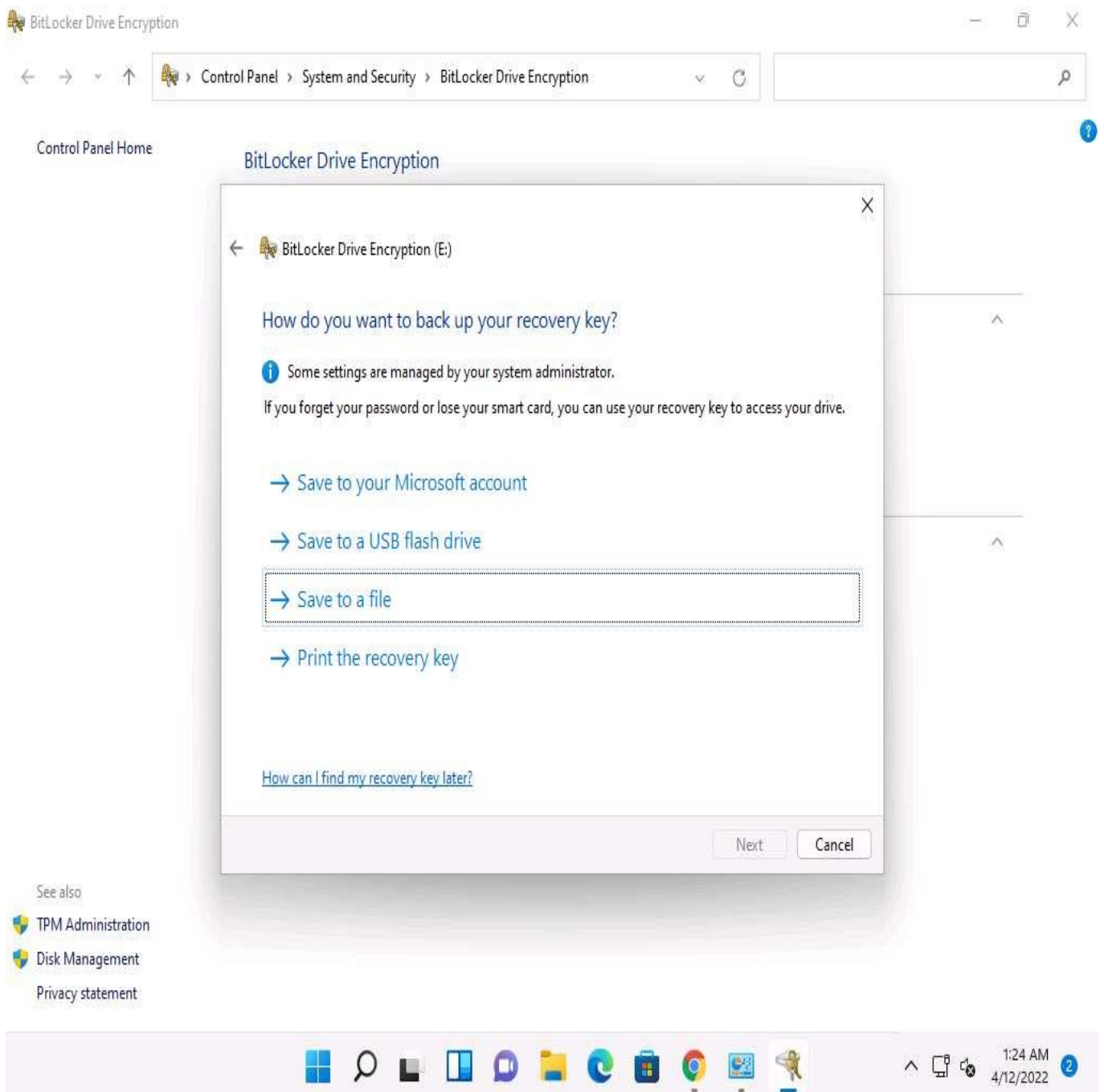


4. ☐ The **BitLocker Drive Encryption (E:)** wizard appears; check the **Use a password to unlock the drive** checkbox.
5. ☐ Type the password in the **Enter your password** field and re-type the password in the **Reenter your password** field; then, click **Next** (Here, the password entered is **test@123**).

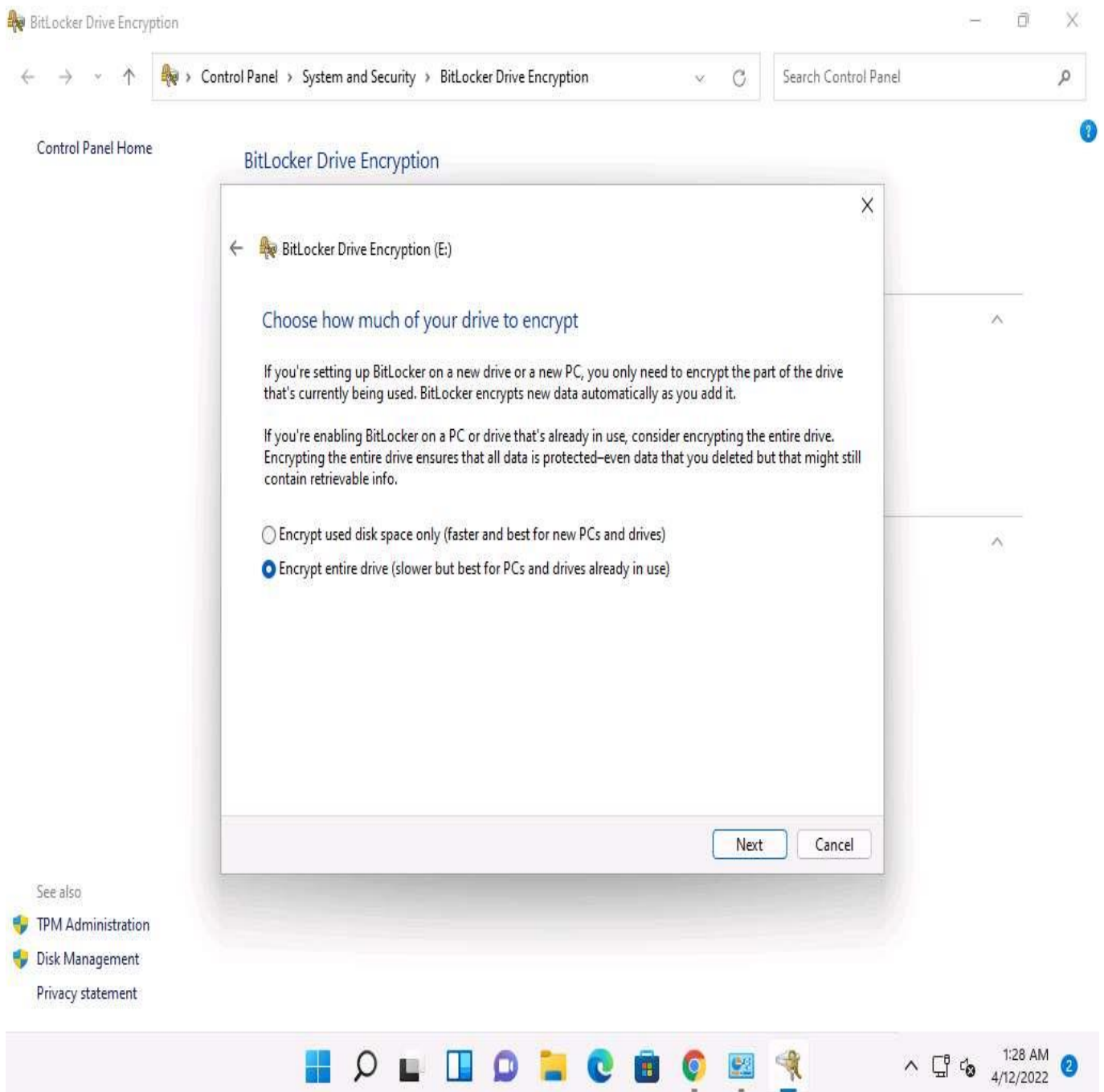


6. ☐ The **How do you want to back up your recovery key?** step appears; click **Save to a file** from the available options.

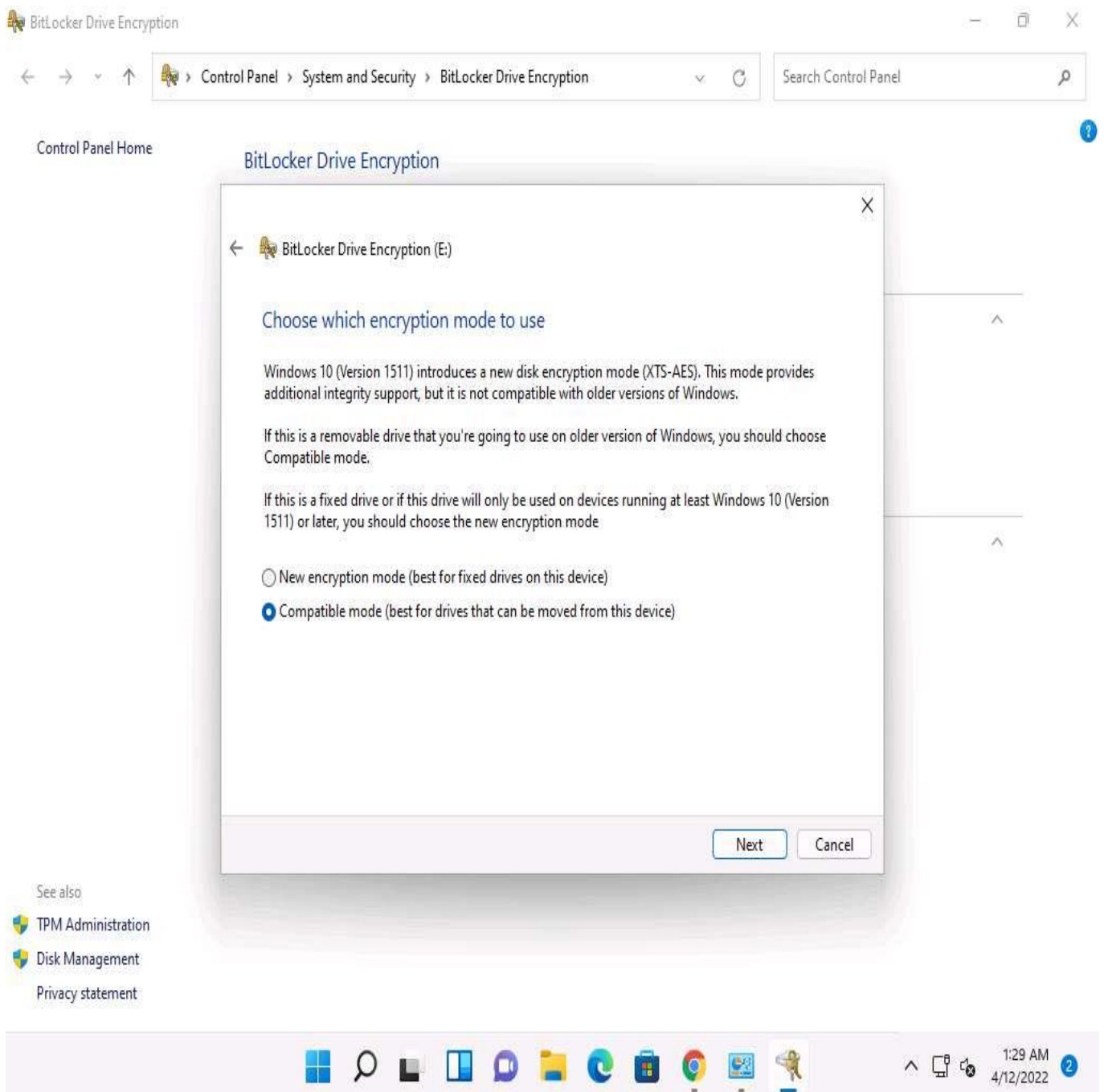




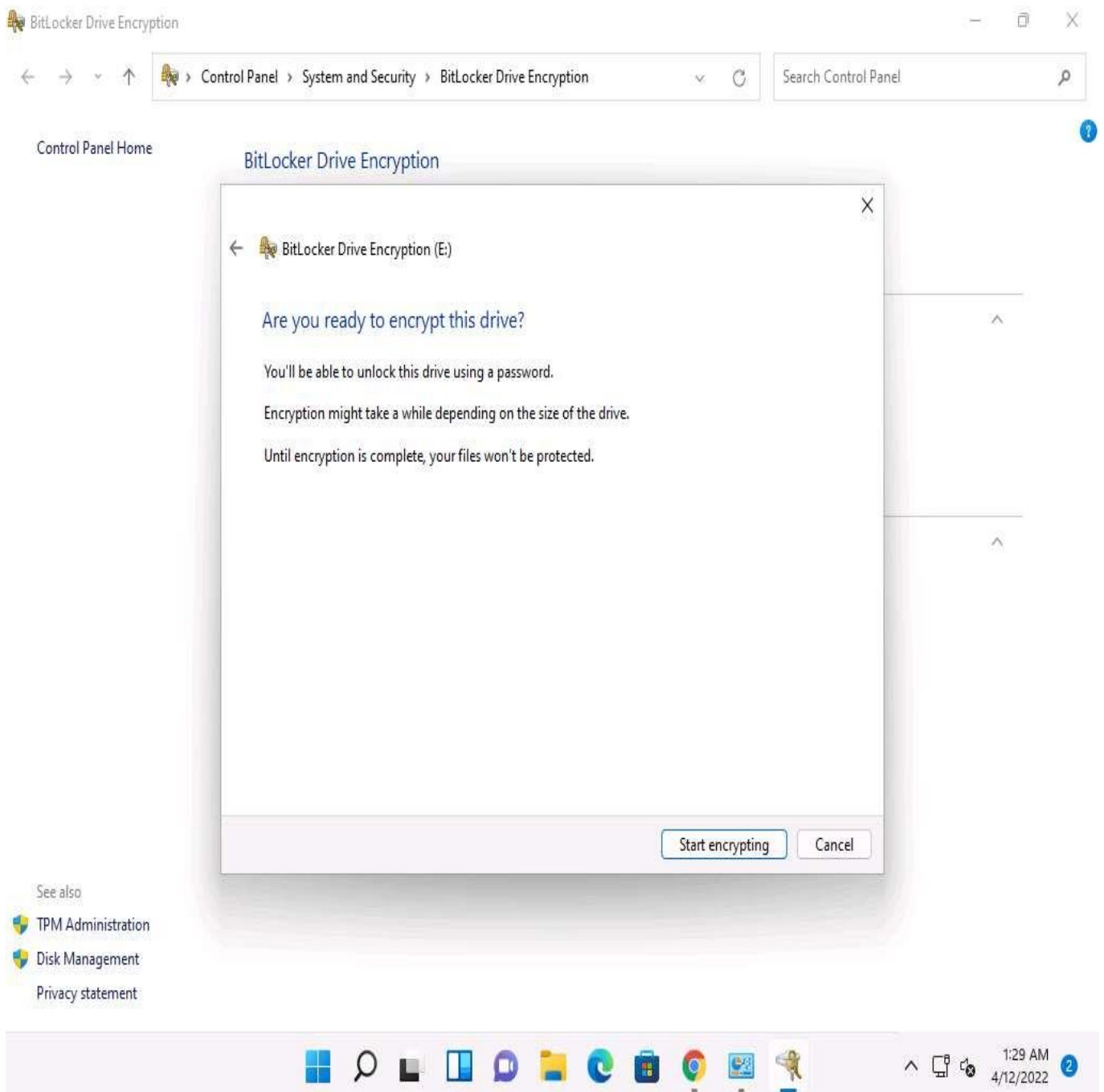
7. ☐ The **Save BitLocker recovery key as** window appears; keep the save location set to **This PC** --> **Documents** and click **Save**.
8. ☐ Click **Next** in the **How do you want to back up your recovery key?** step.
9. ☐ In the **Choose how much of your drive to encrypt** step, select the **Encrypt entire drive (slower but best for PCs and drives already in use)** button, and click **Next**.



10. ☐ In the **Choose which encryption mode to use** step, ensure that the **Compatible mode (best for drives that can be moved from this device)** option is selected, and click **Next**.

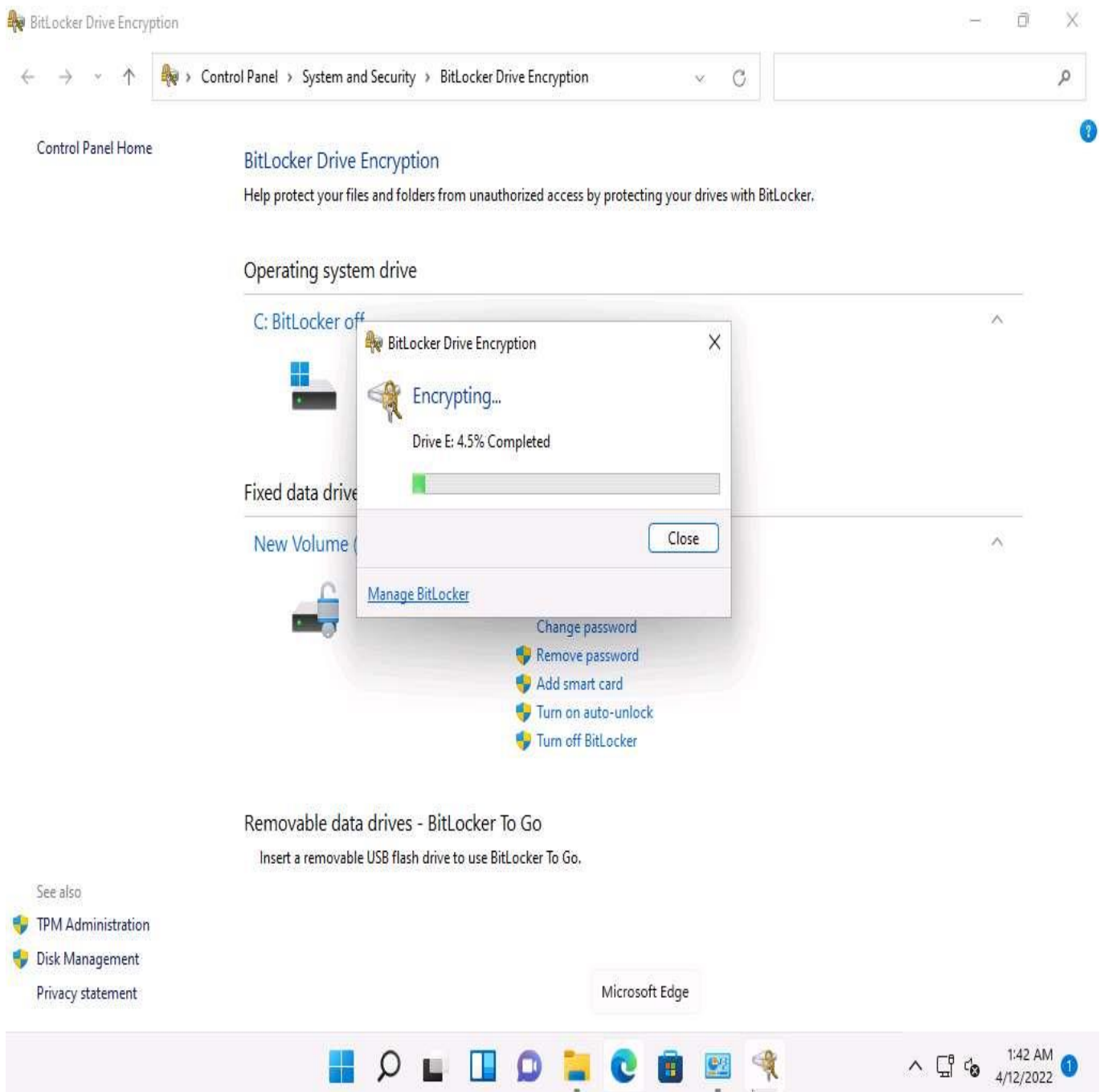


11. ☐ In the **Are you ready to encrypt this drive?** step, click **Start encrypting** to encrypt the selected drive.

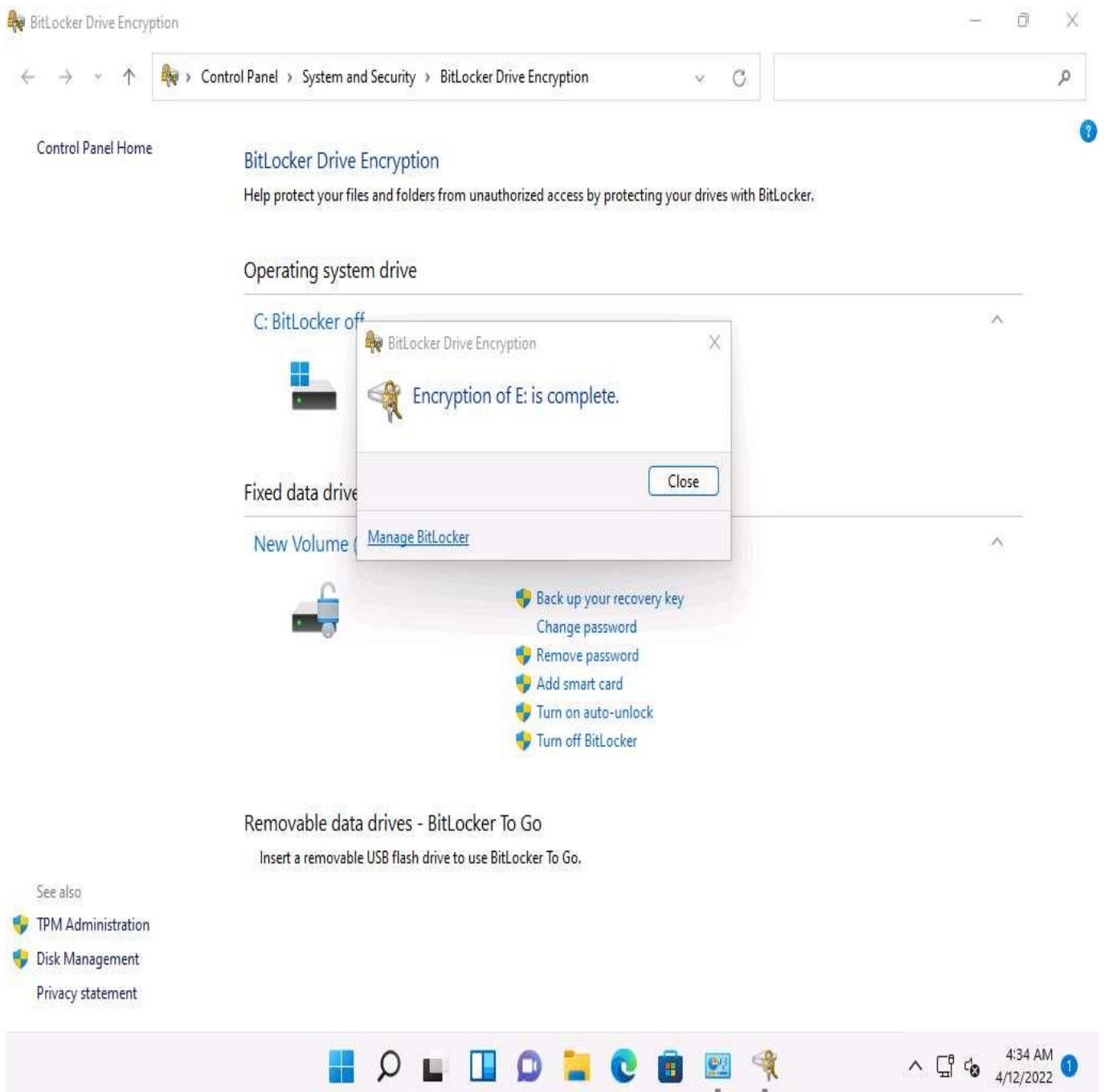


12. ☐ The **BitLocker Drive Encryption** pop-up appears, showing the **Encrypting...** status.

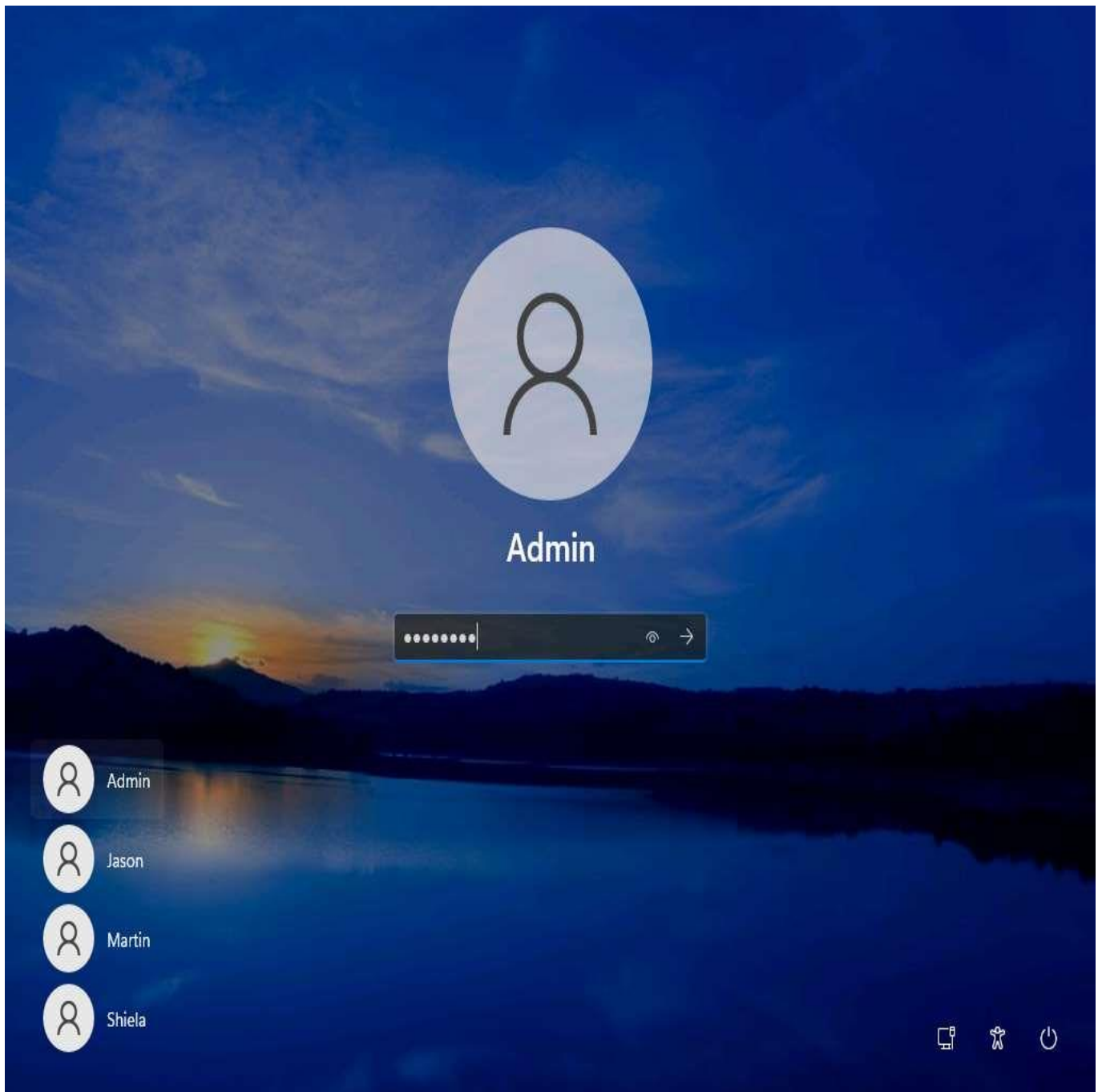




13. ☐ After the completion of the encryption process, the **Encryption of E: is complete** notification appears; click **Close** and **Restart** the machine.

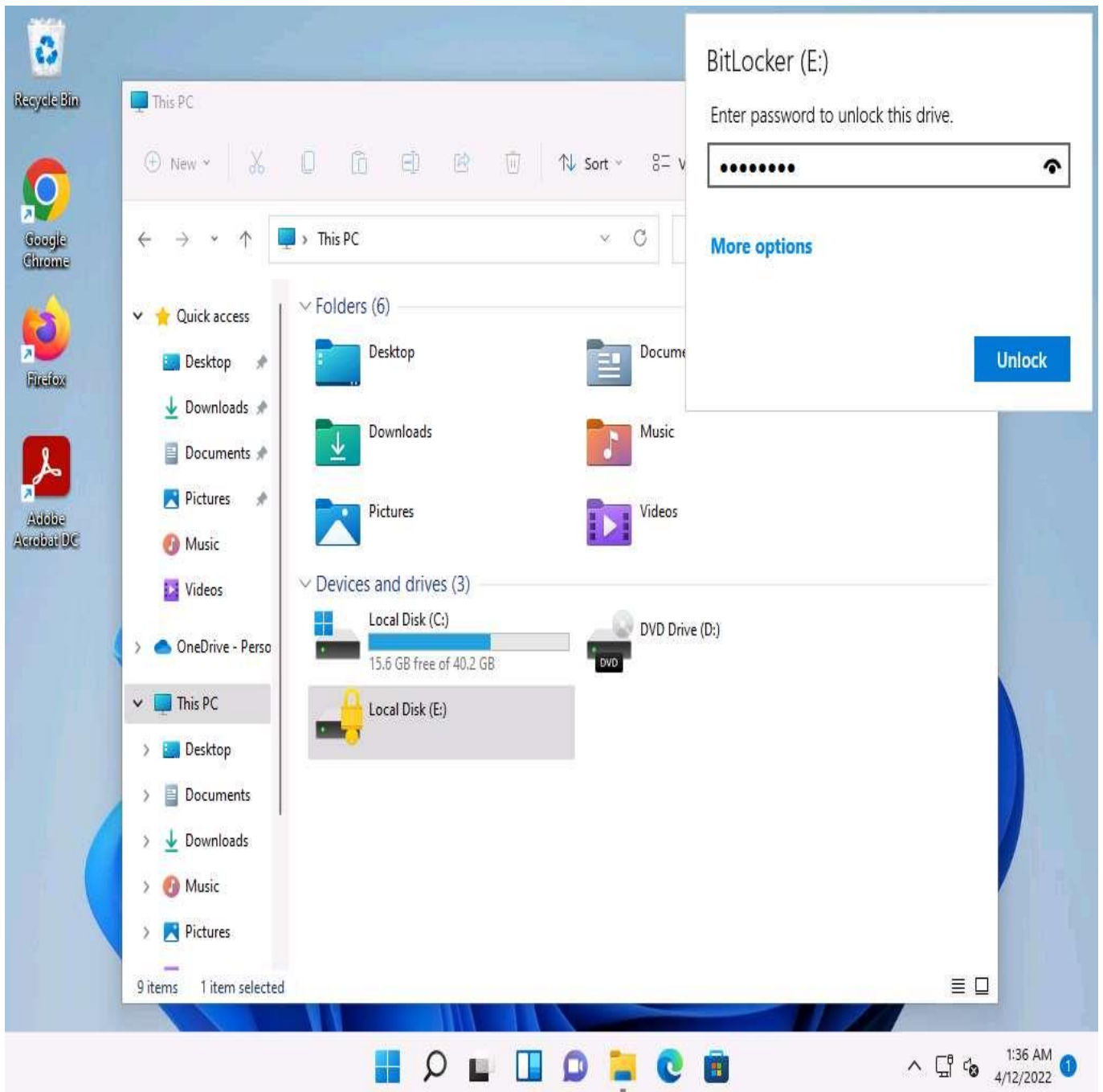


14. ☐ After the system reboots, click **Ctrl+Alt+Delete** to activate it. By default, **Admin** user profile is selected, type **Pa\$\$w0rd** in the Password field and press **Enter** to login



15. ☐ Open **File Explorer** and click **This PC** from the left pane.
16. ☐ You can observe that **Local Disk (E:)** is now encrypted; double-click and the **Local Disk (E:)** security pop-up appears at the top-right corner of **Desktop**
17. ☐ Type the password you provided in **Step#5** and click **Unlock**.

Here, the password is **test@123**.

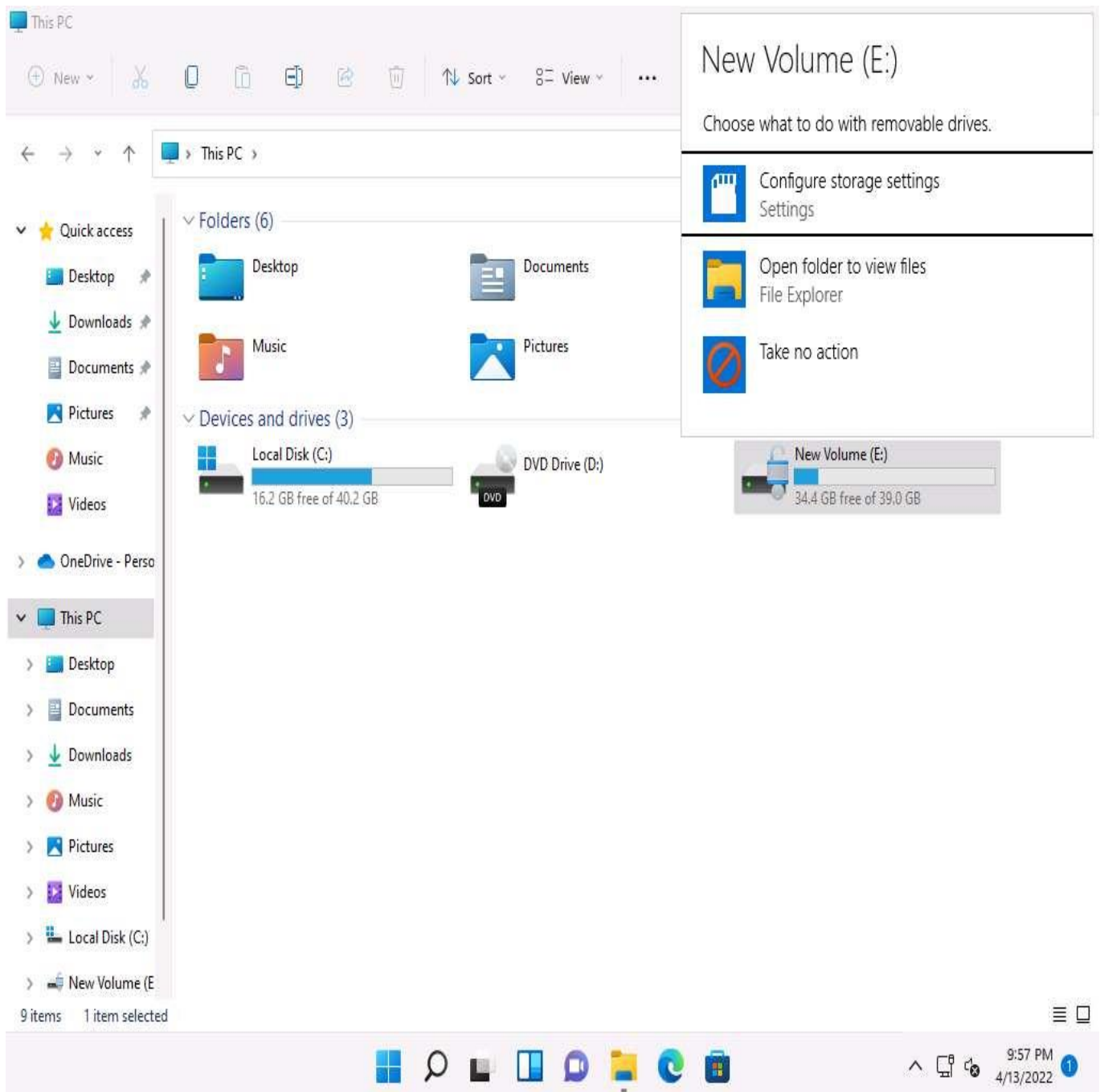


If the **Local Disk (E:)** pop-up appears at the top-right corner of the window. Click the **Open folder to view files** option to view the disk content.

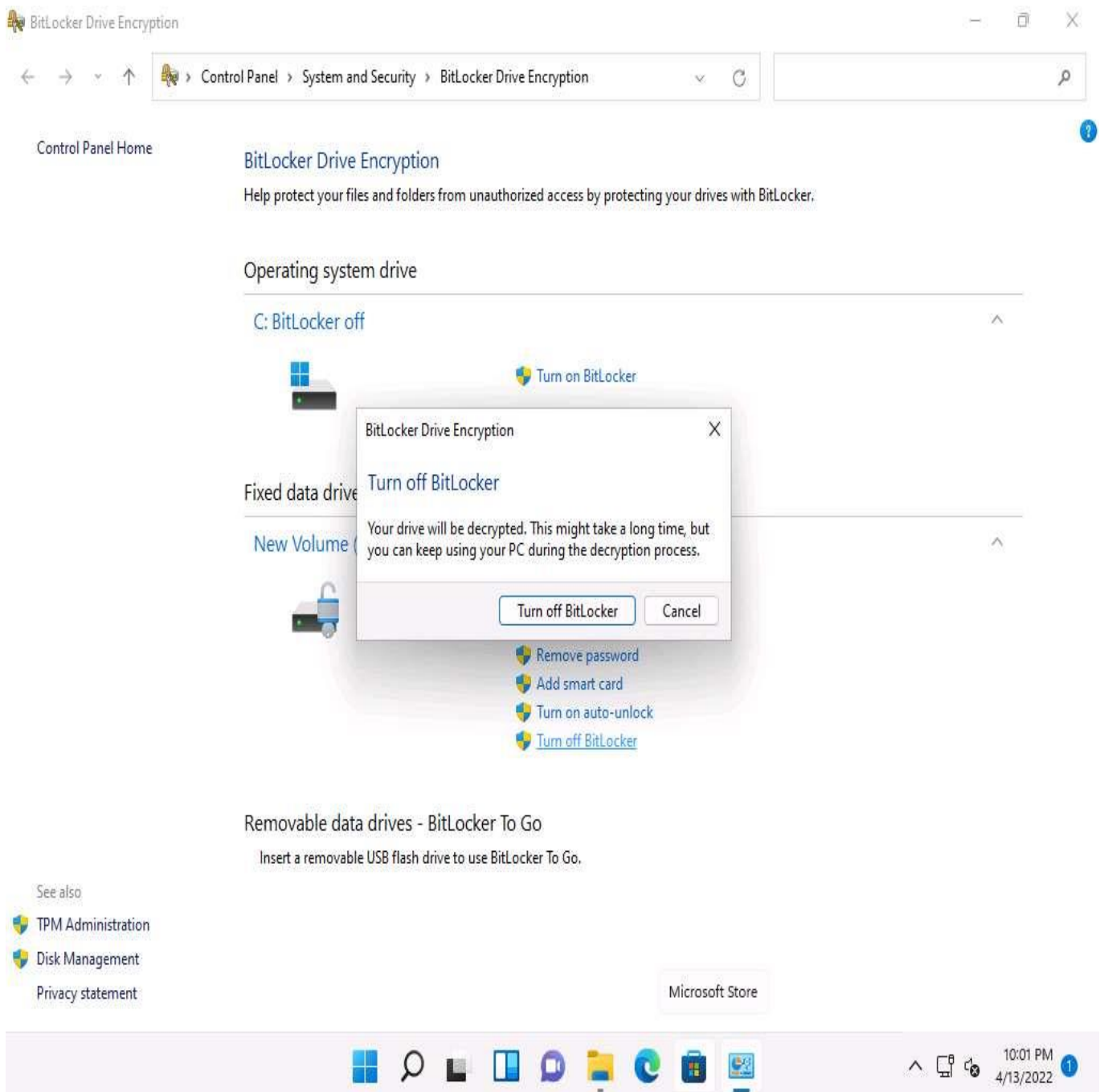
18. ☐ The **New Volume (E:)** window appears displaying the disk content, as shown in the screenshot.

The disk will remain unlocked until the next time you restart the system.

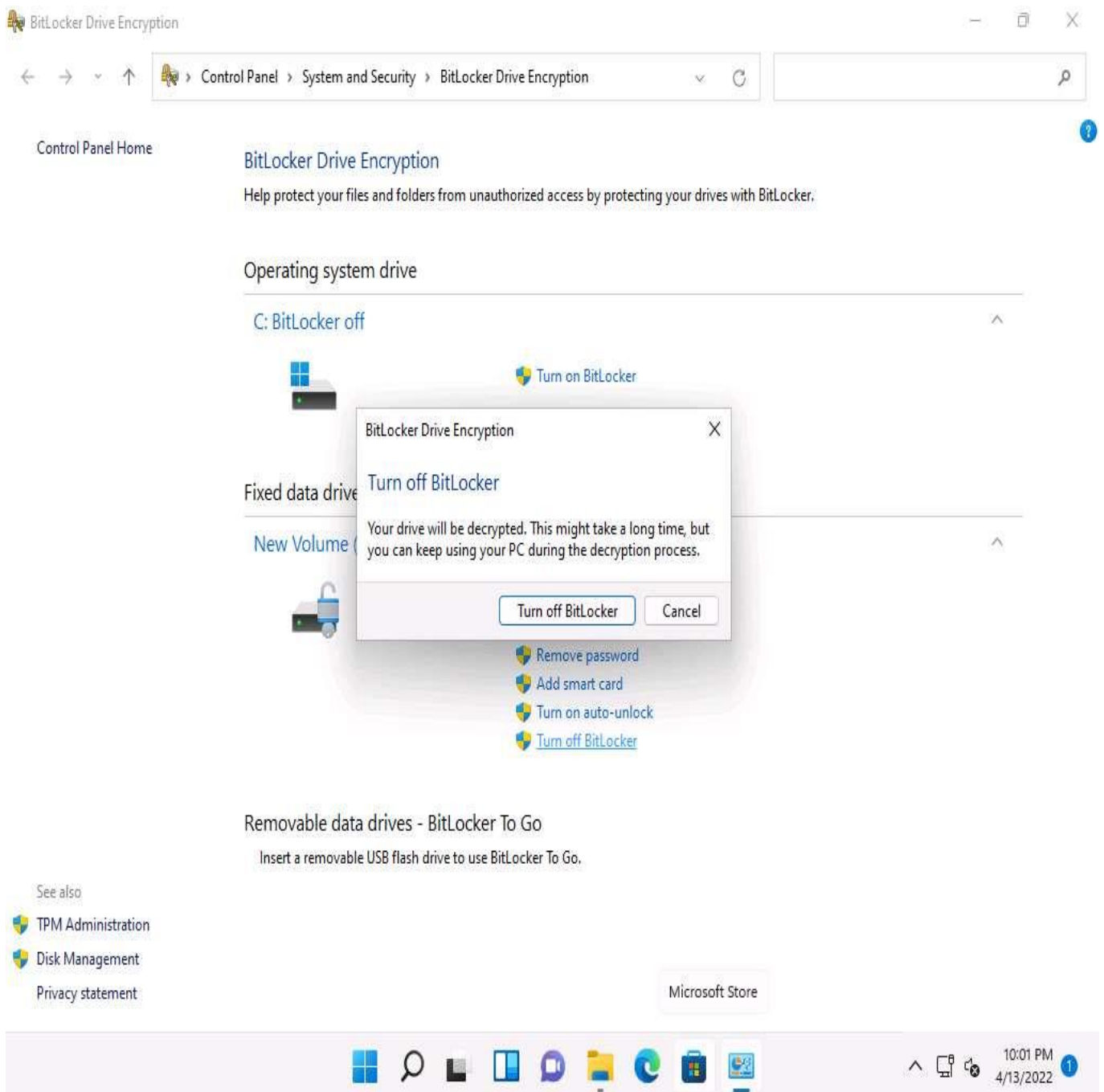




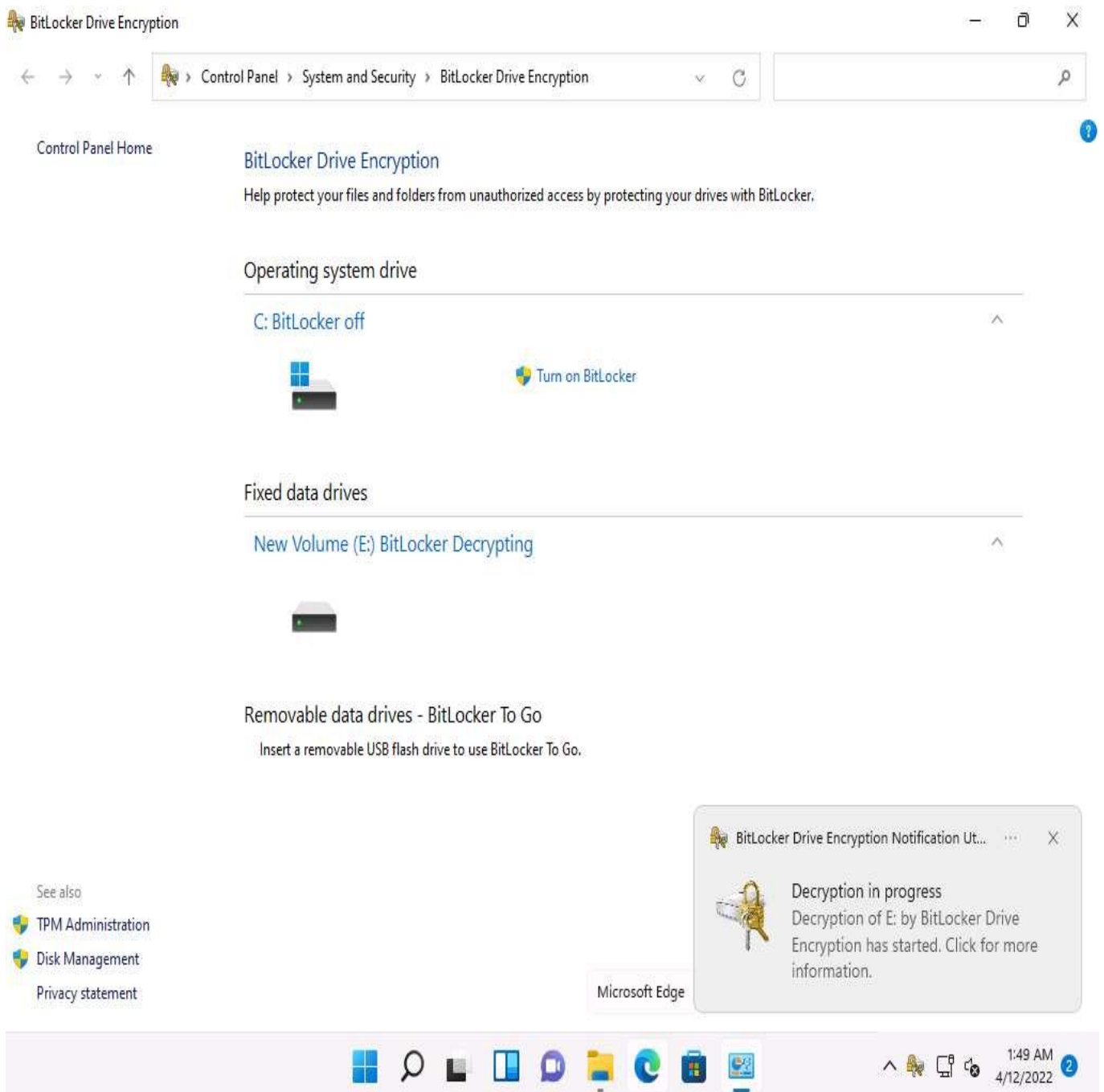
19. ☐ This concludes the demonstration of performing disk encryption using BitLocker Drive Encryption.
20. ☐ Once, you are done with this task; you must turn off BitLocker to decrypt the **New Volume (E:)** disk.
21. ☐ To do so, open the **BitLocker Drive Encryption** window, click **New Volume (E:) BitLocker on** and from the options click **Turn off BitLocker**.



22. ☐ The **BitLocker Drive Encryption** pop-up appears; click **Turn off BitLocker**.



23. ☐ **BitLocker** initiates the decryption process. Wait for it to complete.



If after the completion of decryption process, the **Decryption of E: is complete** pop-up appears; click **Close**.

24. ☐ The **New Volume (E:)** decrypts successfully.
25. ☐ Close all open windows and document all the acquired information.

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## Task 3: Perform Disk Encryption using Rohos Disk Encryption

Rohos Disk Encryption creates hidden and password-protected partitions on a computer or USB flash drive, and password protects/locks access to your Internet applications. It uses a NIST-approved AES encryption algorithm with a 256-bit encryption key length. Encryption is automatic and on-the-fly.

Here, we will use the Rohos Disk Encryption tool to perform disk encryption.

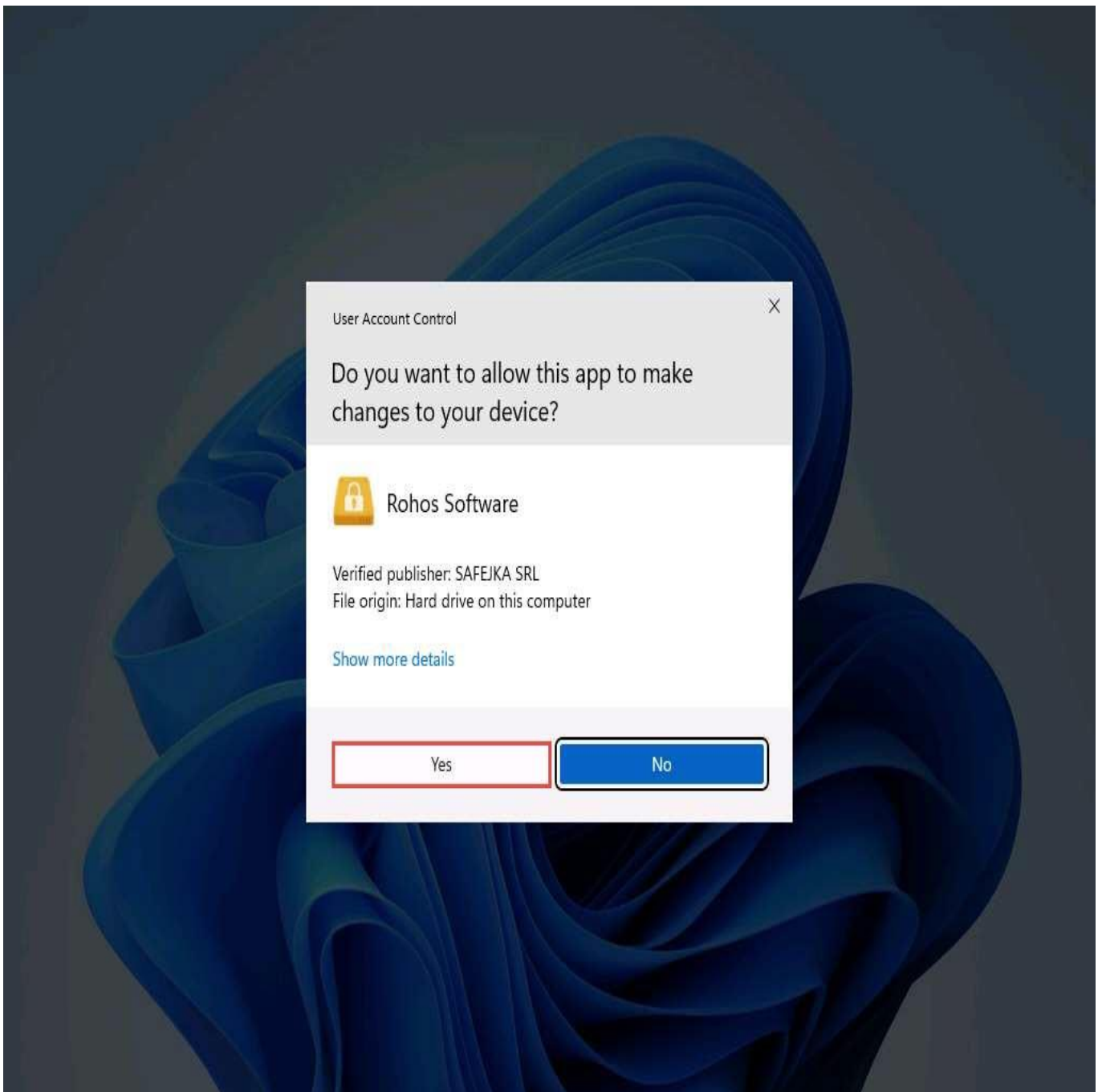


1. ☐ In the **Windows 11** machine, navigate to **E:\CEH-Tools\CEHv12 Module 20 Cryptography\Disk Encryption Tools\Rohos Disk Encryption** and double-click **rohos.exe**.

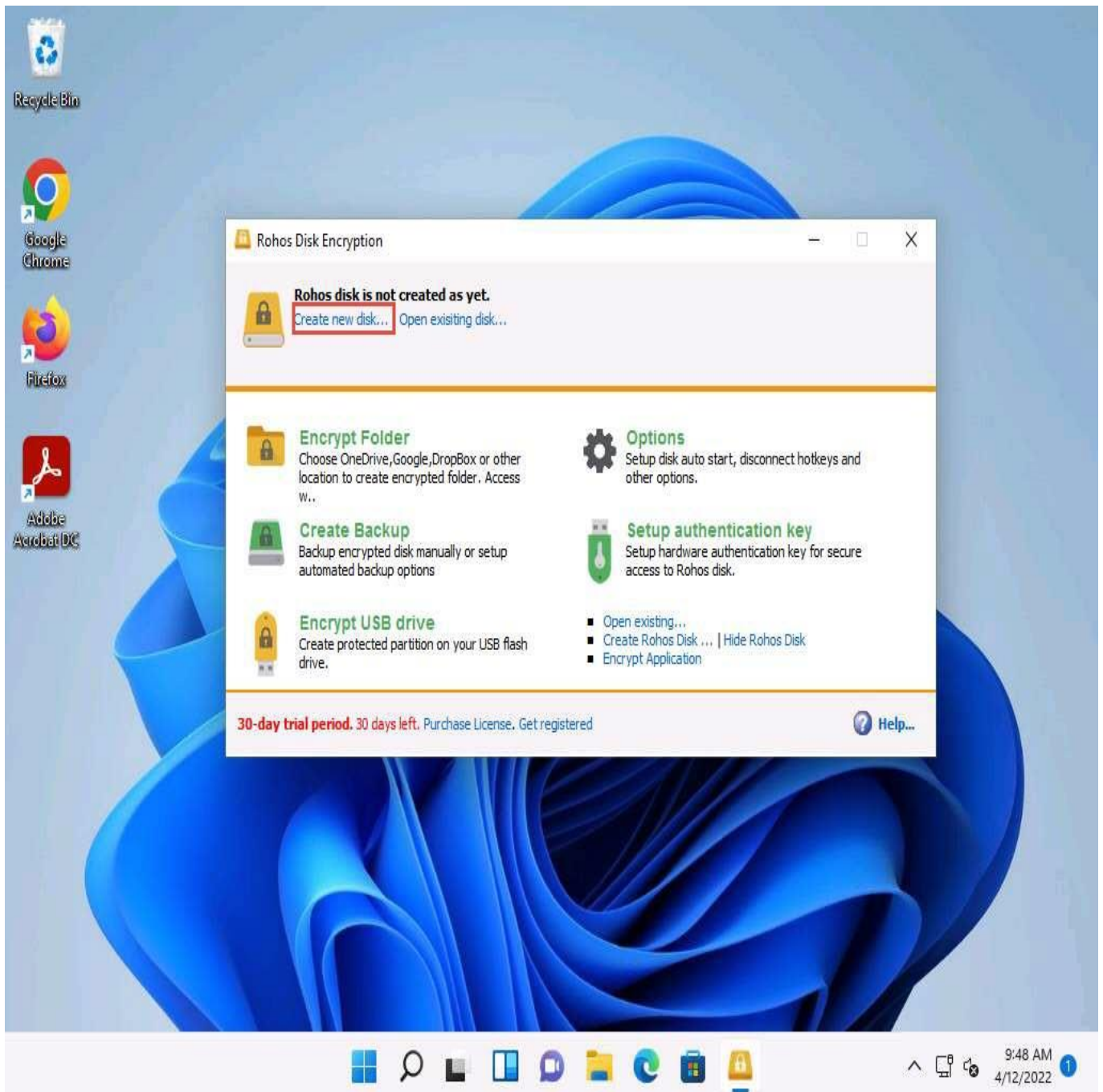
If a **User Account Control** pop-up appears, click **Yes**.

2. ☐ The **Select Setup Language** dialog box appears; click **OK**.
3. ☐ The **Setup - Rohos Disk Encryption** window appears; read the instruction and click **Next**.
4. ☐ Follow the steps and install the application using all default settings.
5. ☐ After the completion of the installation, **Completing the Rohos Disk Encryption Setup** wizard appears; ensure that the **Launch Rohos Disk** checkbox is checked and click **Finish**.

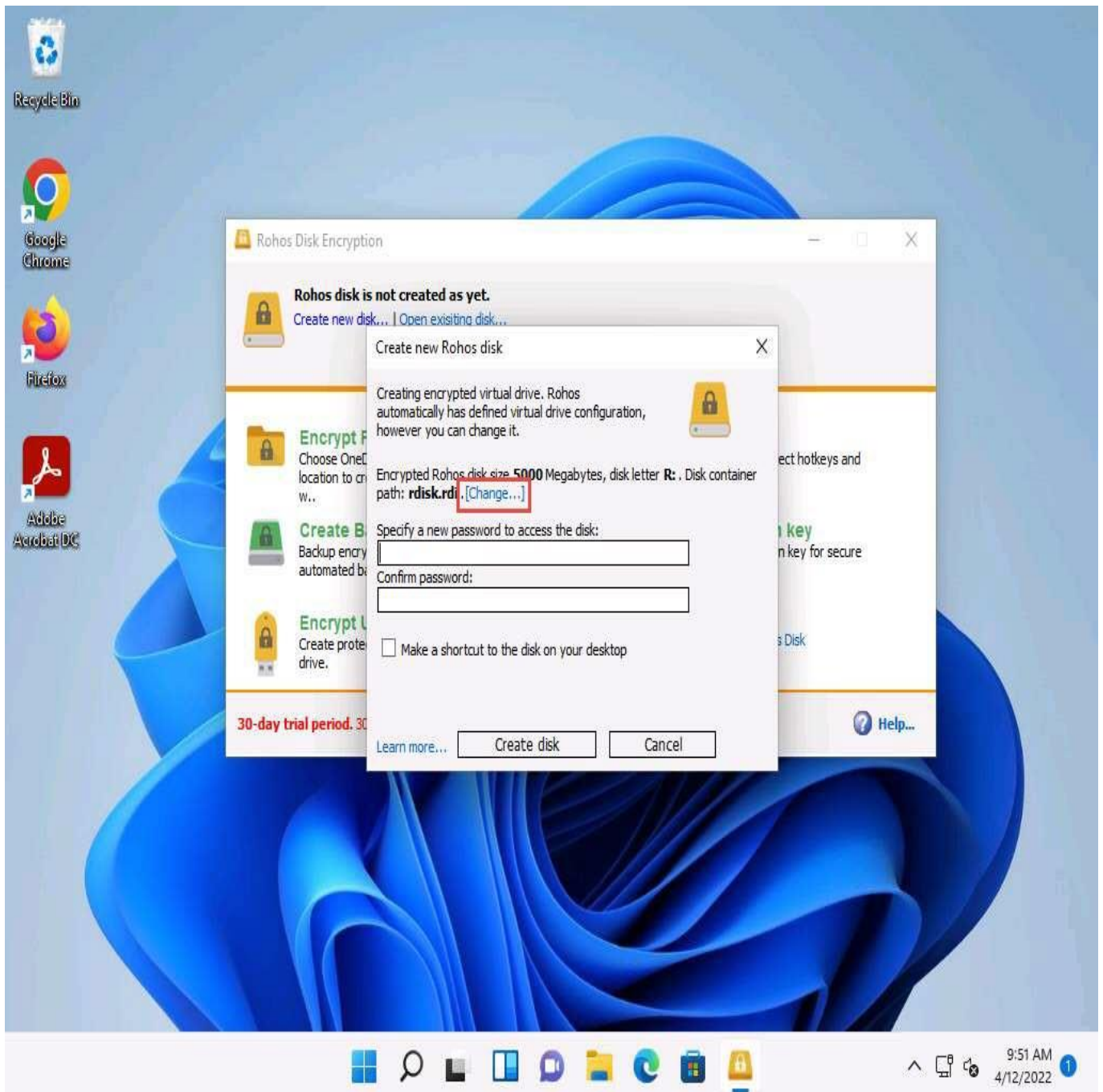
If **User Account Control** pop-up appears, click **Yes**.



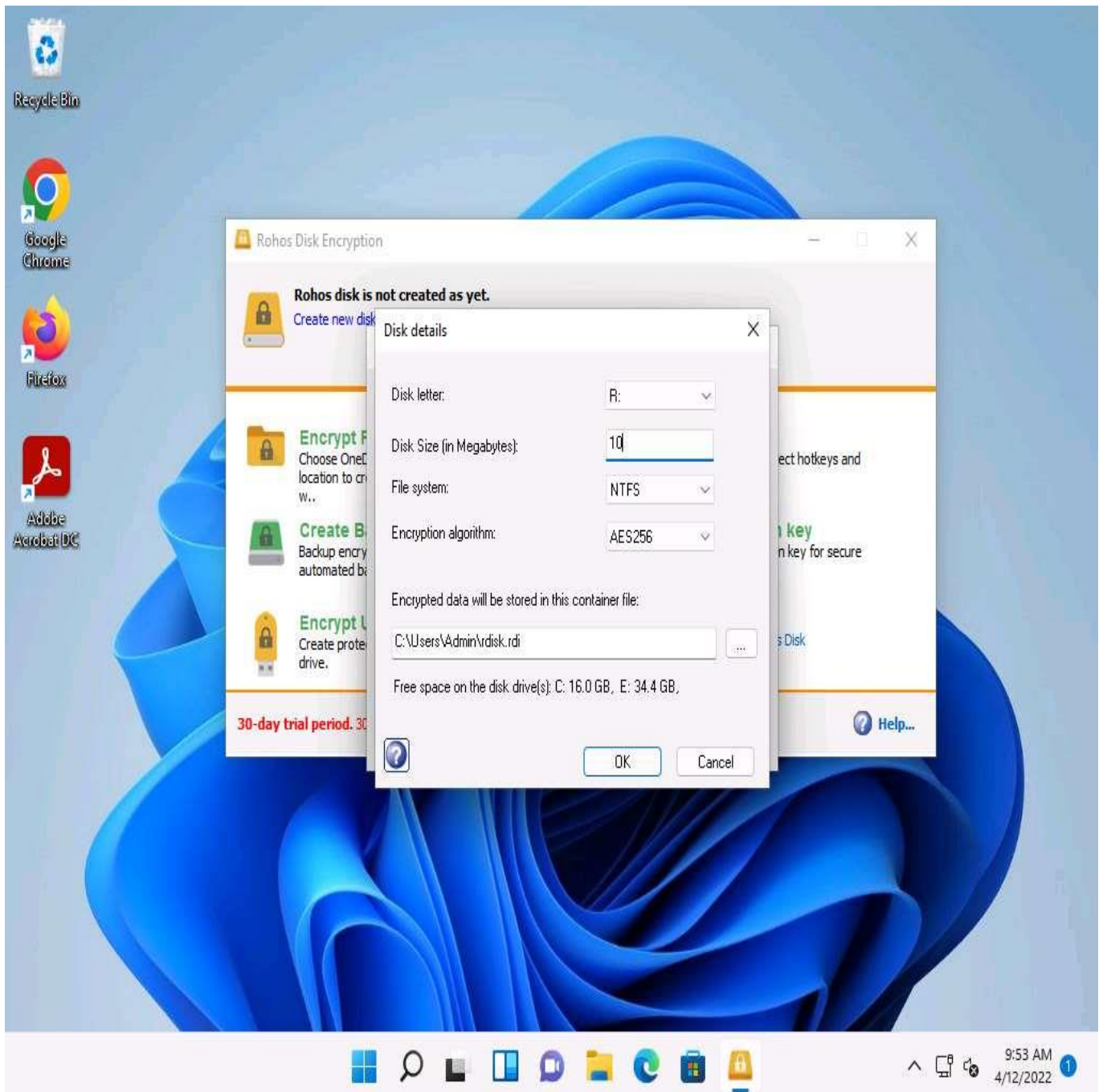
6. ☐ The **Rohos Disk Encryption** main window appears; click **Create new disk...**



7. ☐ The **Create new Rohos disk** window appears; click **Change...** to modify the size of the encrypted disk.

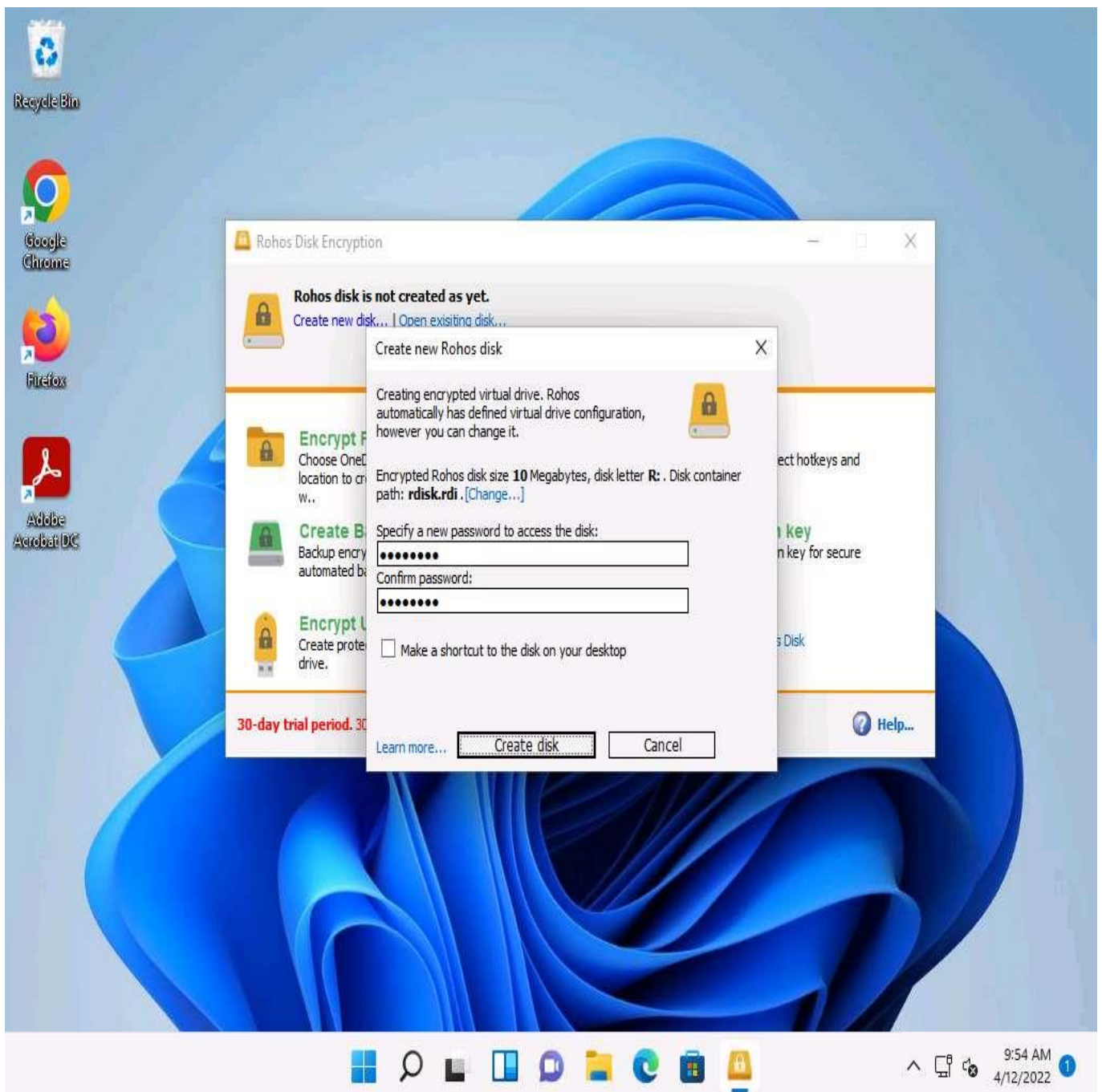


8. ☐ The **Disk details** wizard appears; modify the disk size to **10** in the **Disk Size (in Megabytes)** field and leave all other settings to default; then, click **OK**.

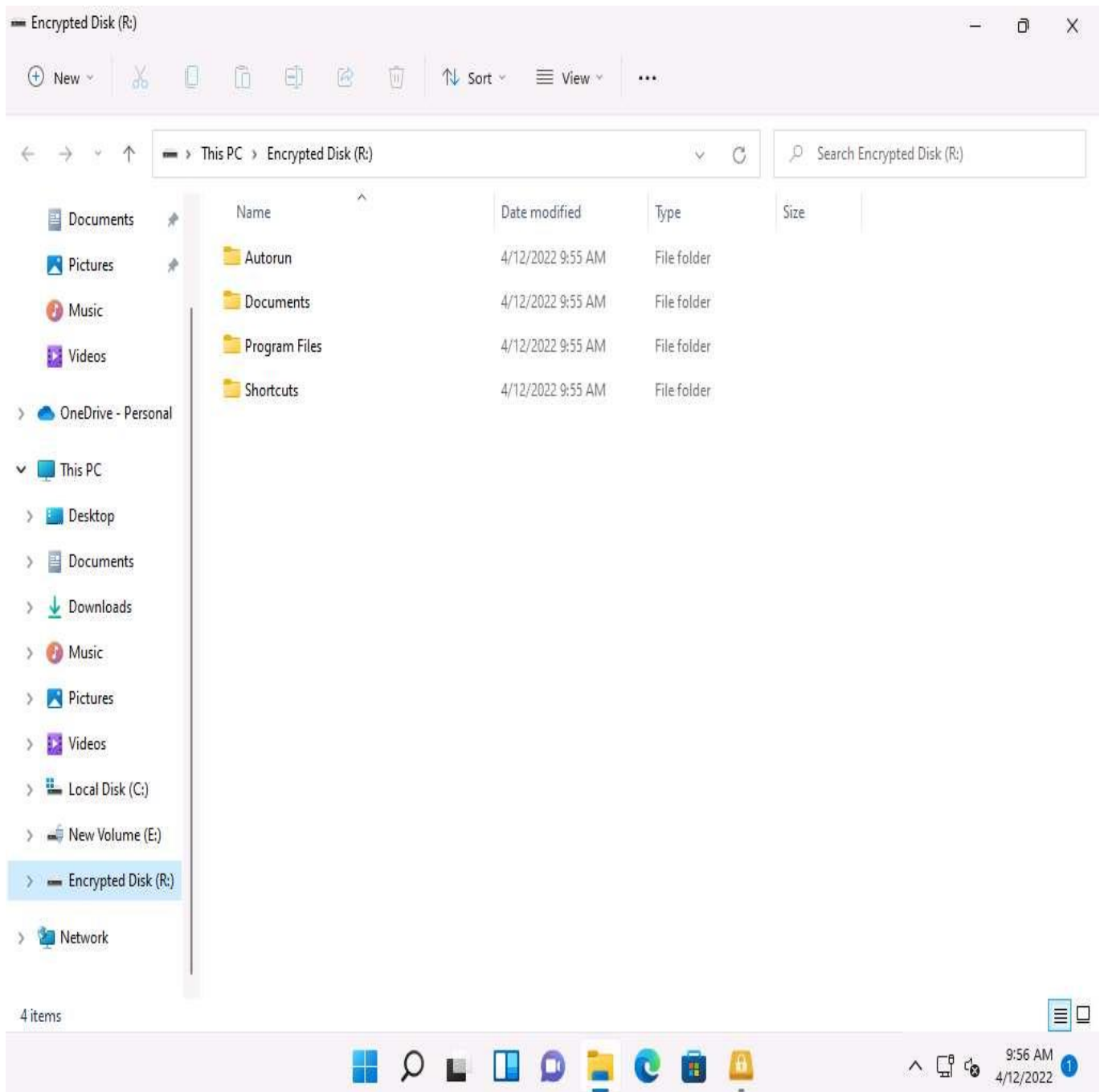


9. ☐ Provide a password in the **Specify a new password to access the disk** field and retype it into the **Confirm password** field; then, click **Create disk** button (Here, the password provided is **test@123**).



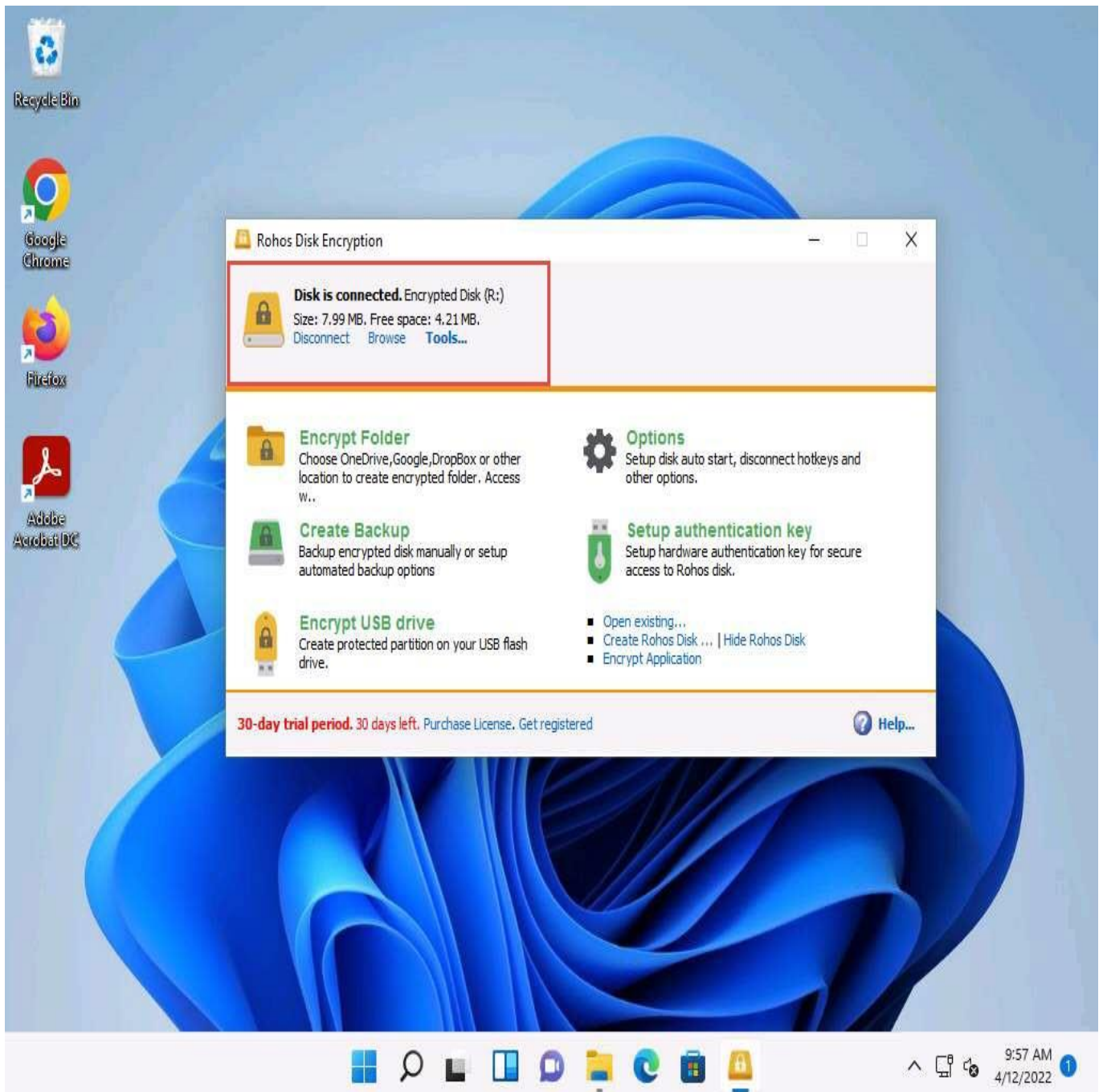


10. ☐ Wait until the encrypted volume is created. The time to create the encrypted volume depends upon the size you specified under the **Disk Size** option: if large, it will take a long time to create the volume.
11. ☐ On creating the encrypted volume, the **Encrypted Disk (R:)** window appears, displaying the default disk content, as shown in the screenshot.

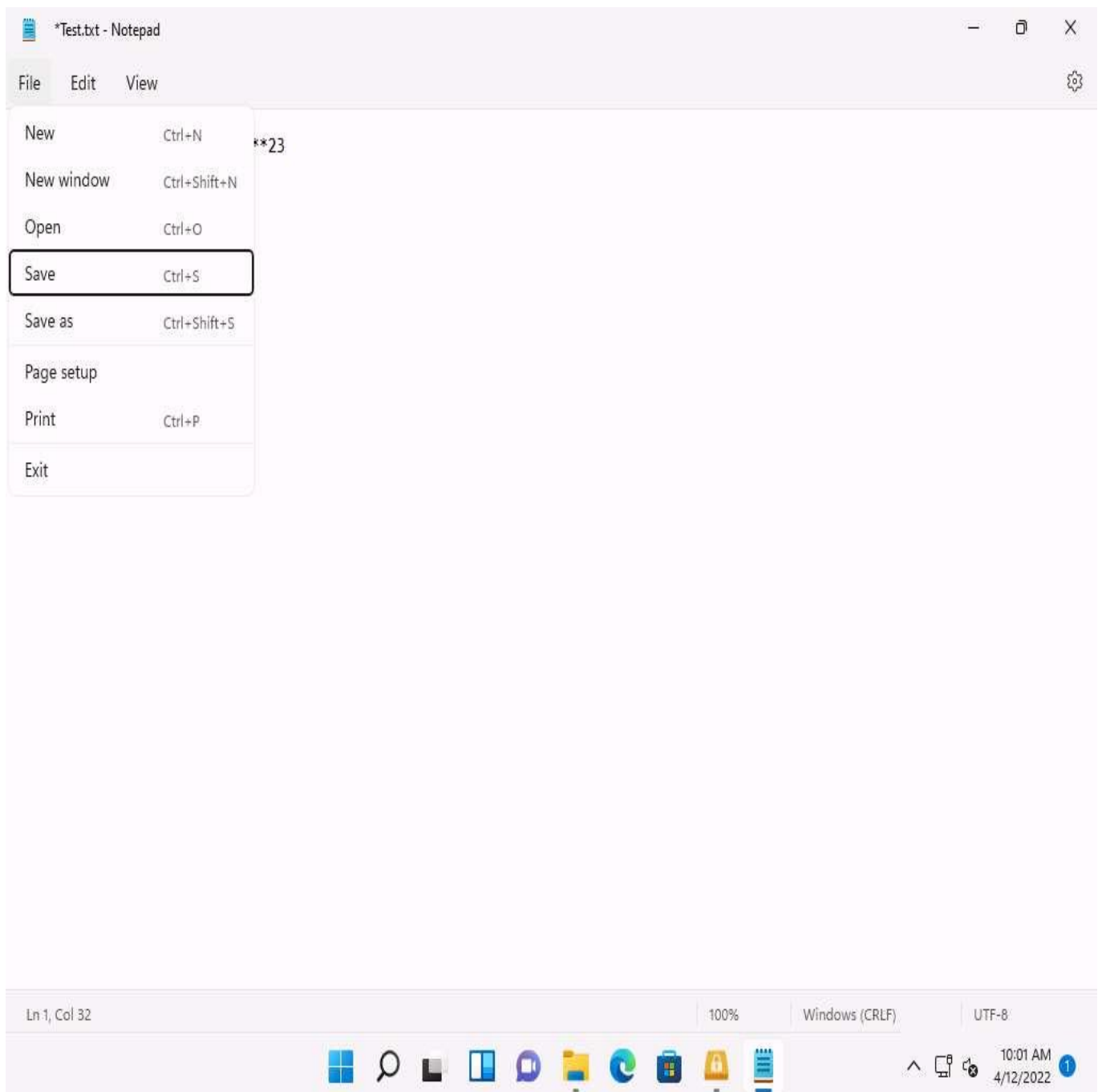


12. ☐ The **Disk is connected** notification appears at the top section of the **Rohos Disk Encryption** window.

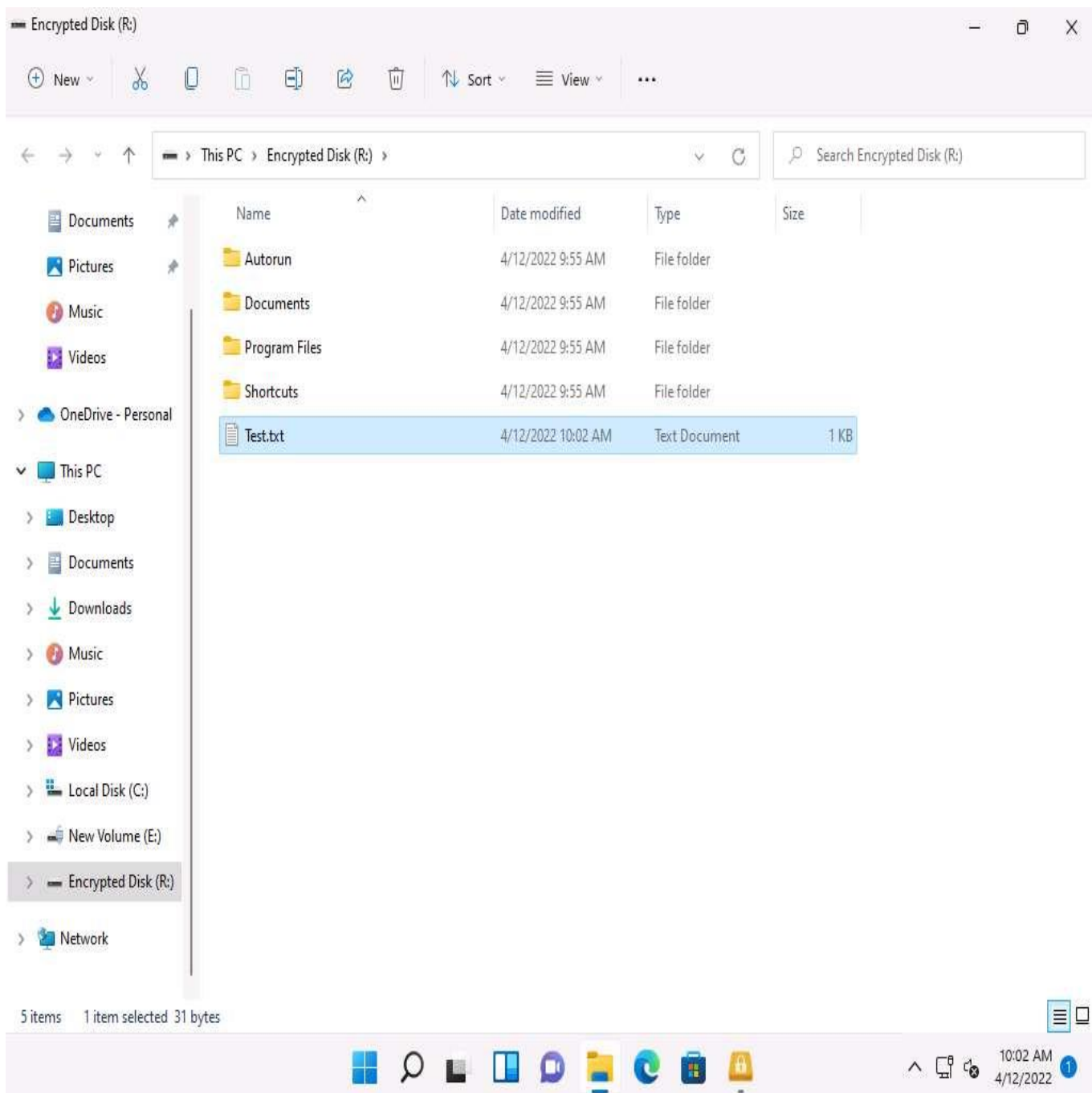
This drive appears only when you are connected to Rohos Disk Encryption, and disappears when you exit.



13. ☐ If you wish to conceal any important files/directories from anyone accessing your system, you can place them in this drive and access them whenever required (by launching Rohos and entering the password).
14. ☐ Now, we shall place a text file in **Encrypted disk (R:)**. To do so, create a text file on **Desktop** and name it **Test**. Open the file and insert text.
15. ☐ Click **File** in the menu bar and click **Save**.

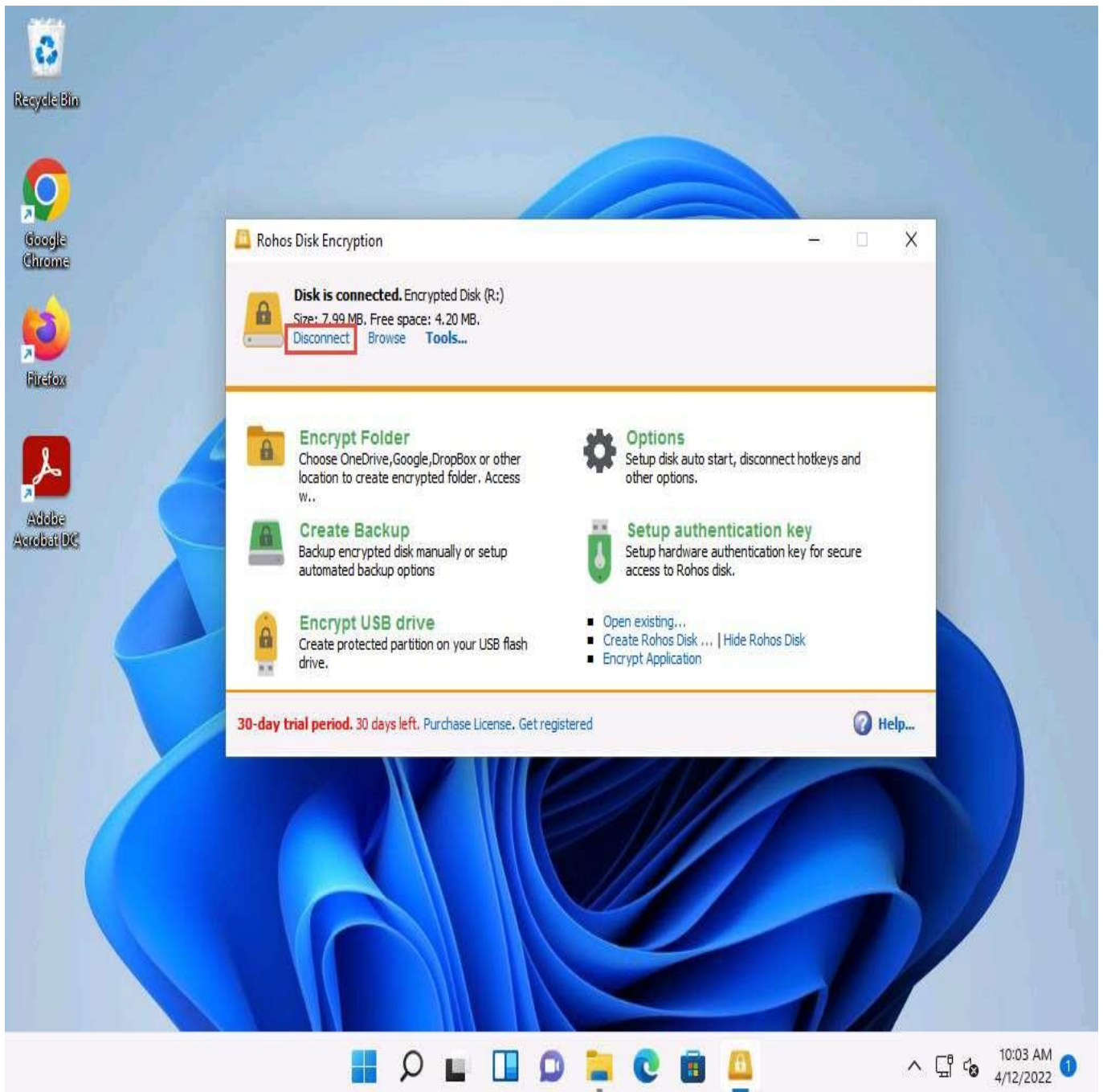


16. ☐ Copy the file from **Desktop** and paste into **Encrypted Disk (R:)**. Close the window.

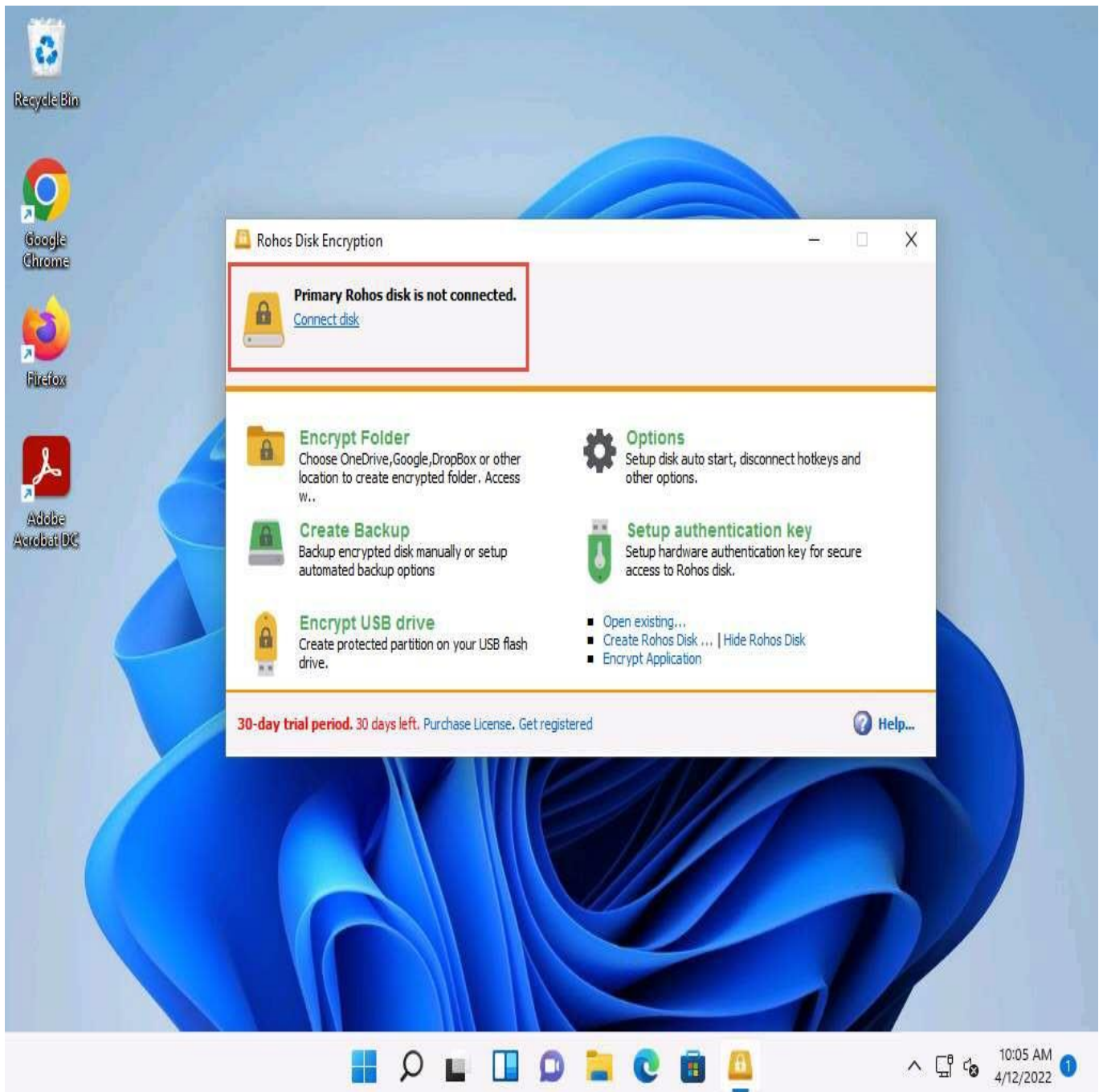


17. ☐ Switch to the **Rohos Disk Encryption** window and click **Disconnect** to dismount **Encrypted disk (R:)**.



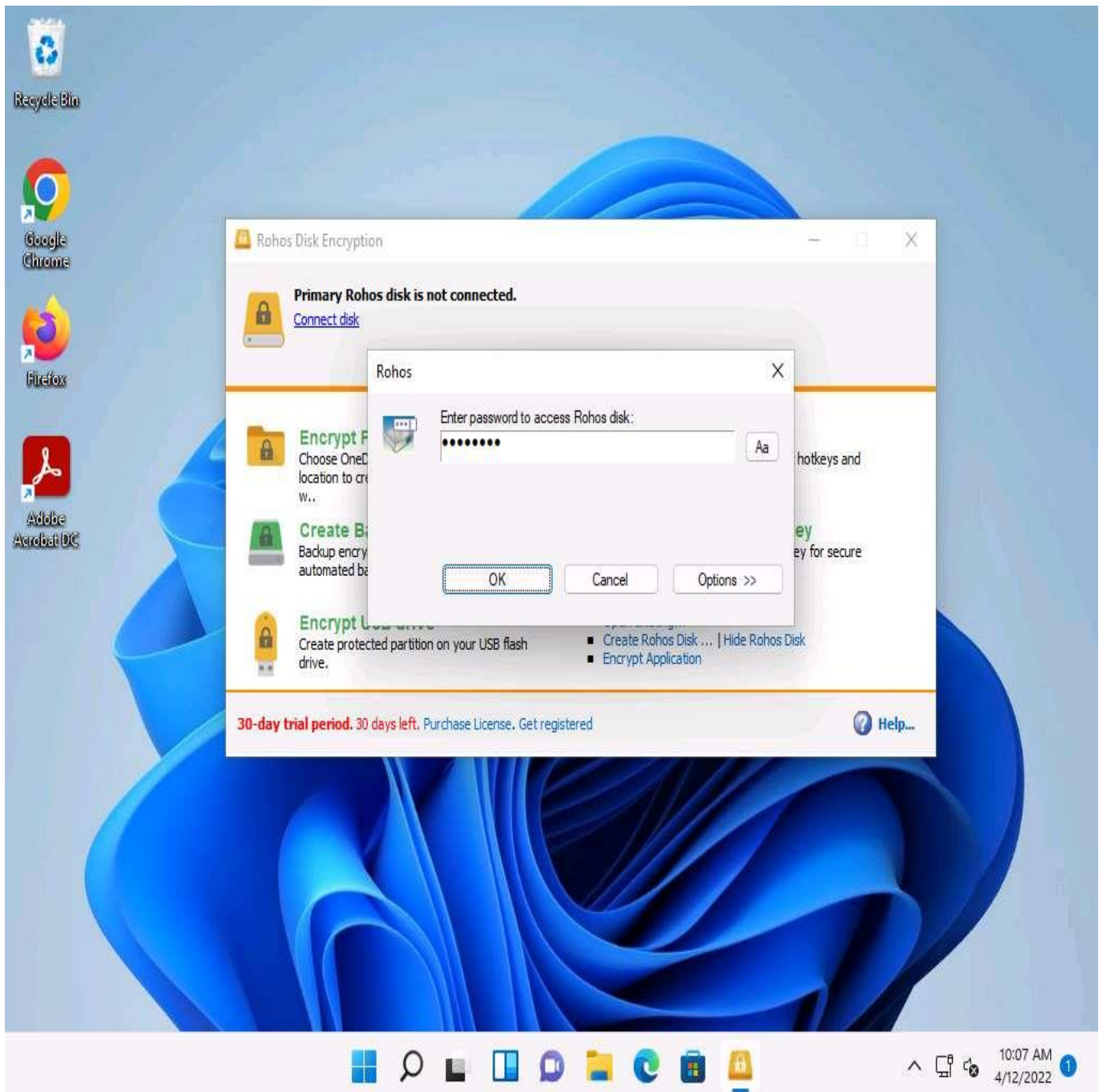


18. ☐ A notification appears stating **Primary Rohos disk is not connected** at the top of the **Rohos Disk Encryption** window. To mount the disk again, click the **Connect disk** option.



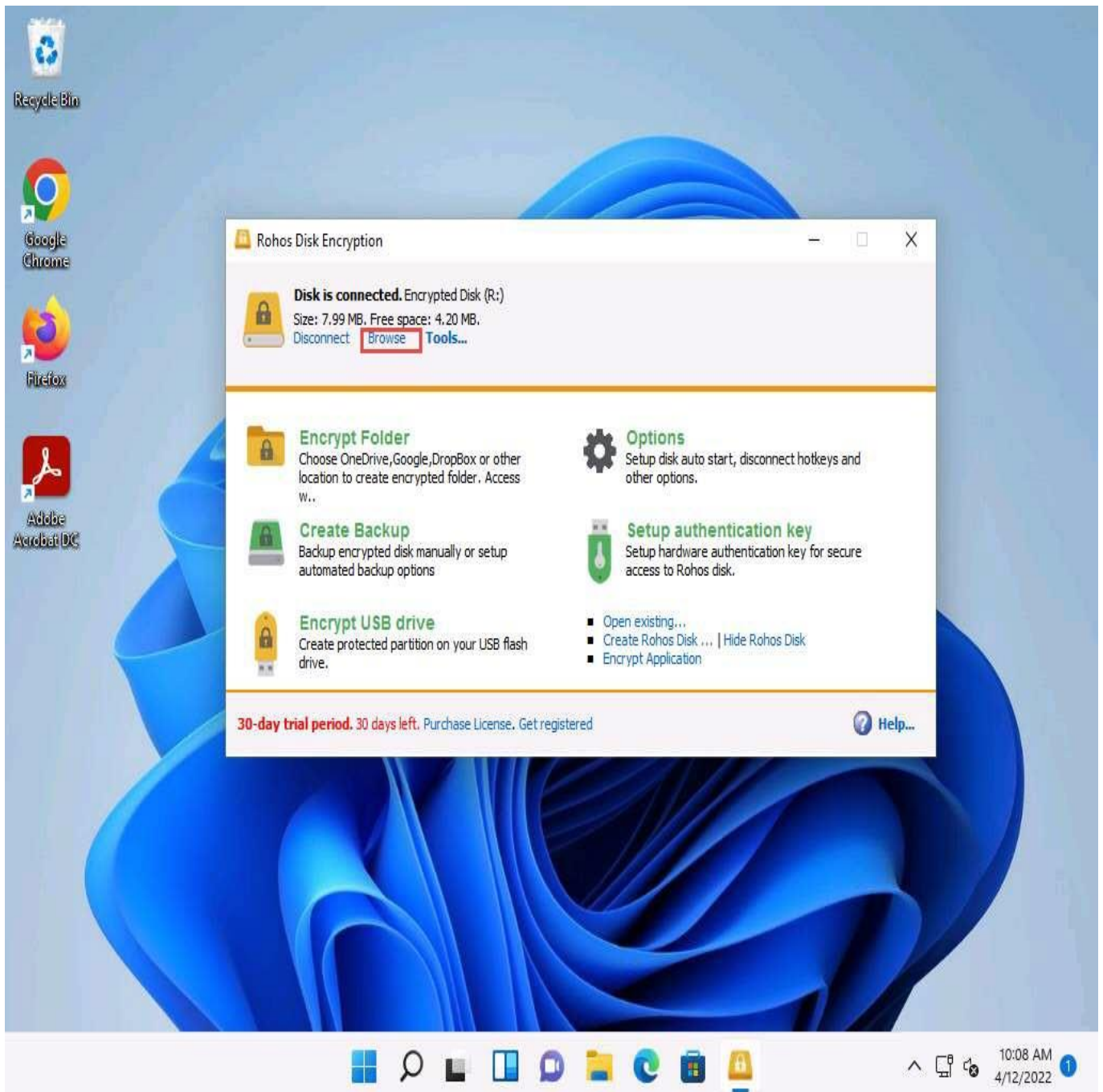
19. ☐ The **Rohos** pop-up appears; type the password you provided in **Step#6** into the **Enter password to access Rohos disk** field and click **OK**.

Here, the password is **test@123**.

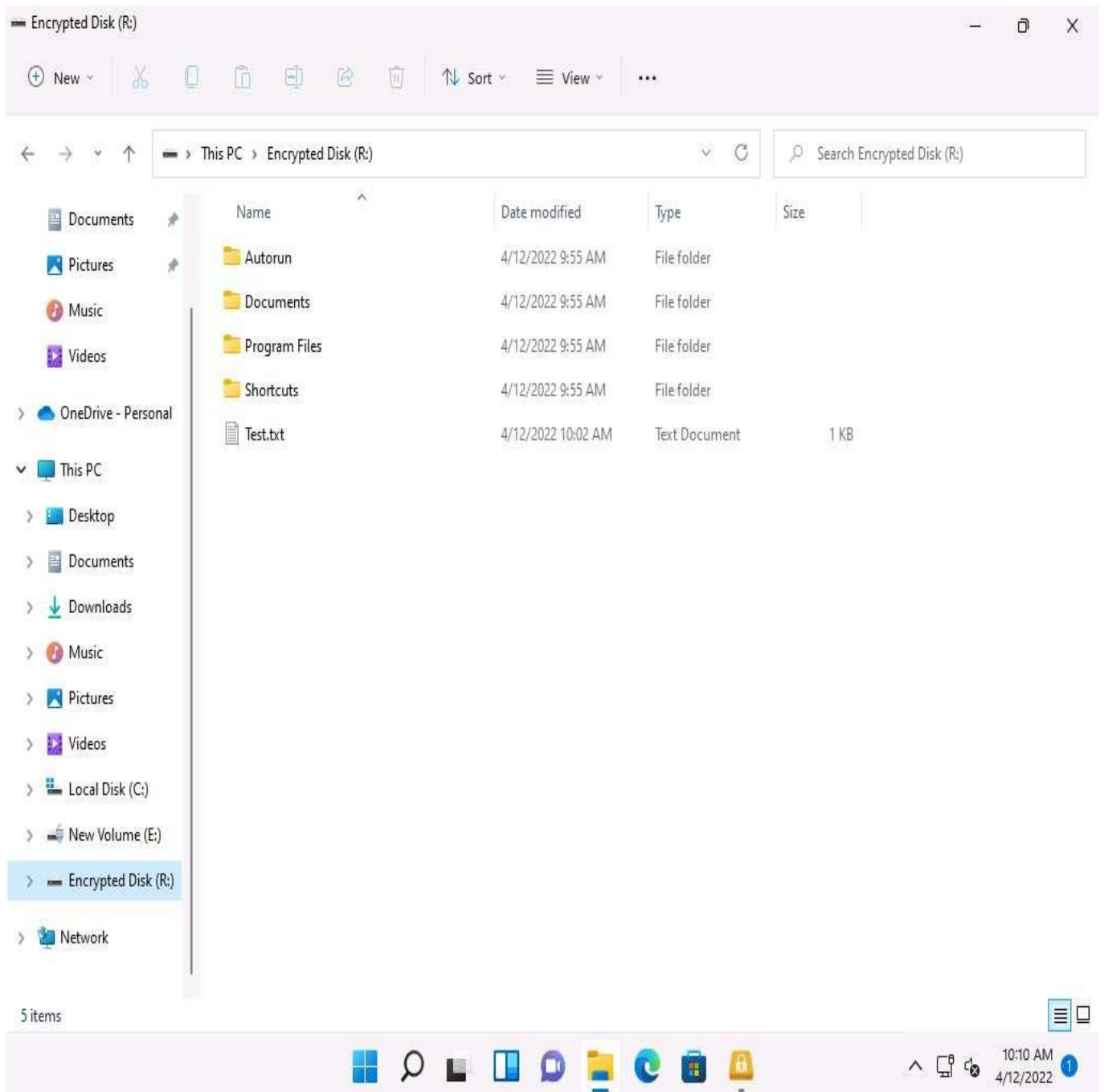


20. ☐ The **Disk is connected** notification appears in the **Rohos Disk Encryption** window. Click **Browse** to explore the disk content.



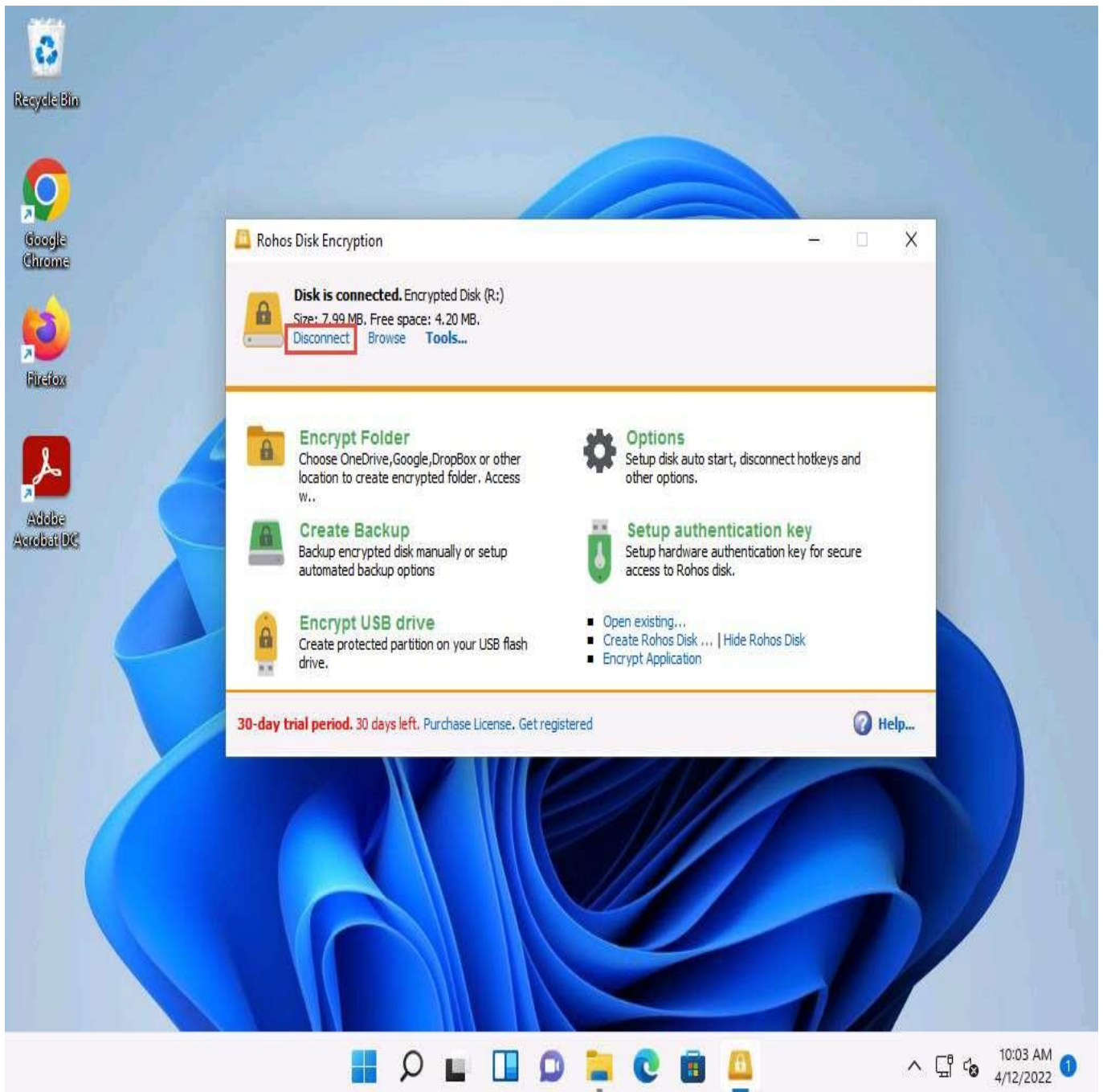


21. ☐ The **Encrypted Disk (R:)** window appears; you can see the **Test.txt** file that was pasted onto the disk earlier, as shown in the screenshot.



22. ☐ You can access the disk content and further add, delete, and modify the files. After making the intended changes, click **Disconnect** again in the **Rohos Disk Encryption** window to dismount the disk.





You can also use the Encrypt USB drive option to share sensible information with someone via USB. You can use this application to store the files in an encrypted disk and share the password with that person. The person with whom you want to share the files can access them only after entering the correct password. This way, you can protect the files from being viewed by a third person and thereby safeguard them.

23. ☐ This concludes the demonstration of performing disk encryption using Rohos Disk Encryption.
24. ☐ You can also use other disk encryption tools such as **FinalCrypt** (<http://www.finalcrypt.org>), **Seqrite Encryption Manager** (<https://www.seqrite.com>), **FileVault** (<https://support.apple.com>), and **Gillsoft Full Disk Encryption** (<http://www.gilisoft.com>) to perform disk encryption.
25. ☐ Close all open windows and document all the acquired information