

**NAME**

ntfswipe – overwrite unused space on an NTFS volume

**SYNOPSIS**

**ntfswipe** [*options*] *device*

**DESCRIPTION**

**ntfswipe** clears all or part of unused space on an NTFS volume by overwriting with zeroes or random bytes.

**OPTIONS**

Below is a summary of all the options that **ntfswipe** accepts. Nearly all options have two equivalent names. The short name is preceded by **-** and the long name is preceded by **--**. Any single letter options, that don't take an argument, can be combined into a single command, e.g. **-fv** is equivalent to **-f -v**. Long named options can be abbreviated to any unique prefix of their name.

**-a, --all**

Wipe all unused space. This may take significant time. If the option **--unused-fast** (or **-U**) is also present, the faster wiping method is used.

**-b, --bytes BYTE-LIST**

Define the allowed replacement bytes which are drawn randomly to overwrite the unused space. **BYTE-LIST** is a comma-separated list of values in range 0-255 expressed in octal, decimal or hexadecimal base.

**-c, --count NUM**

Define the number of times the unused space is to be overwritten. If both options **--bytes** and **--count** are set, the space is repeatedly overwritten this number of times by each of the values in the list.

**-d, --directory**

Wipe all the directory indexes, which may contain names of deleted files.

**-f, --force**

This will override some sensible defaults, such as not using a mounted volume. Use this option with caution.

**-h, --help**

Show a list of options with a brief description of each one.

**-i, --info**

Display details about unused space, without wiping anything.

**-l, --logfile**

Overwrite the logfile (update journal).

**-m, --mft**

Overwrite the unused space in the MFT (main file table, which contains the file names, and the contents of short files).

**-n, --no-action**

Executes the wiping process without writing to device.

**-p, --pagefile**

Overwrite the Windows swap space.

**-q, --quiet**

Suppress some debug/warning/error messages.

**-s, --undel**

Overwrite the space which had been allocated to a file which has been deleted recently and is still undeletable. This option is not compatible with **--bytes** and the replacement bytes are random ones or taken from a standard list.

**-t, --tails**

Overwrite the space at the end of files which is unused, but allocated because the allocations are always done by full clusters.

**-u, --unused**

Overwrite the space which is currently not allocated to any file (but may have been used in the past).

**-U, --unused-fast**

Overwrite the space which is currently not allocated to any file, trying not to overwrite the space not written to since the previous wiping.

**-v, --verbose**

Display more debug/warning/error messages. This option may be used twice to display even more messages.

**-V, --version**

Show the version number, copyright and license of **ntfswipe**.

**EXAMPLES**

Wipe out all unused space in an NTFS volume.

```
ntfswipe -a /dev/sda1
```

Wipe out all deleted file names from an NTFS volume.

```
ntfswipe -dms /dev/sda1
```

**BUGS**

There are no known problems with **ntfswipe**. If you find a bug please send an email describing the problem to the development team:

[ntfs-3g-devel@lists.sf.net](mailto:ntfs-3g-devel@lists.sf.net)

**AUTHORS**

**ntfswipe** was written by Richard Russon, Anton Altaparmakov and Yura Pakhuchiy. It was ported to ntfs-3g by Erik Larsson.

**AVAILABILITY**

**ntfswipe** is part of the **ntfs-3g** package and is available from:

<https://github.com/tuxera/ntfs-3g/wiki/>

**SEE ALSO**

**ntfs-3g(8)**, **ntfsls(8)**, **ntfsprogs(8)**