Ex No-2: Recover deleted or damaged files from a storage device using Test Disk

AIM:

To recover lost partitions and deleted files using TestDisk.

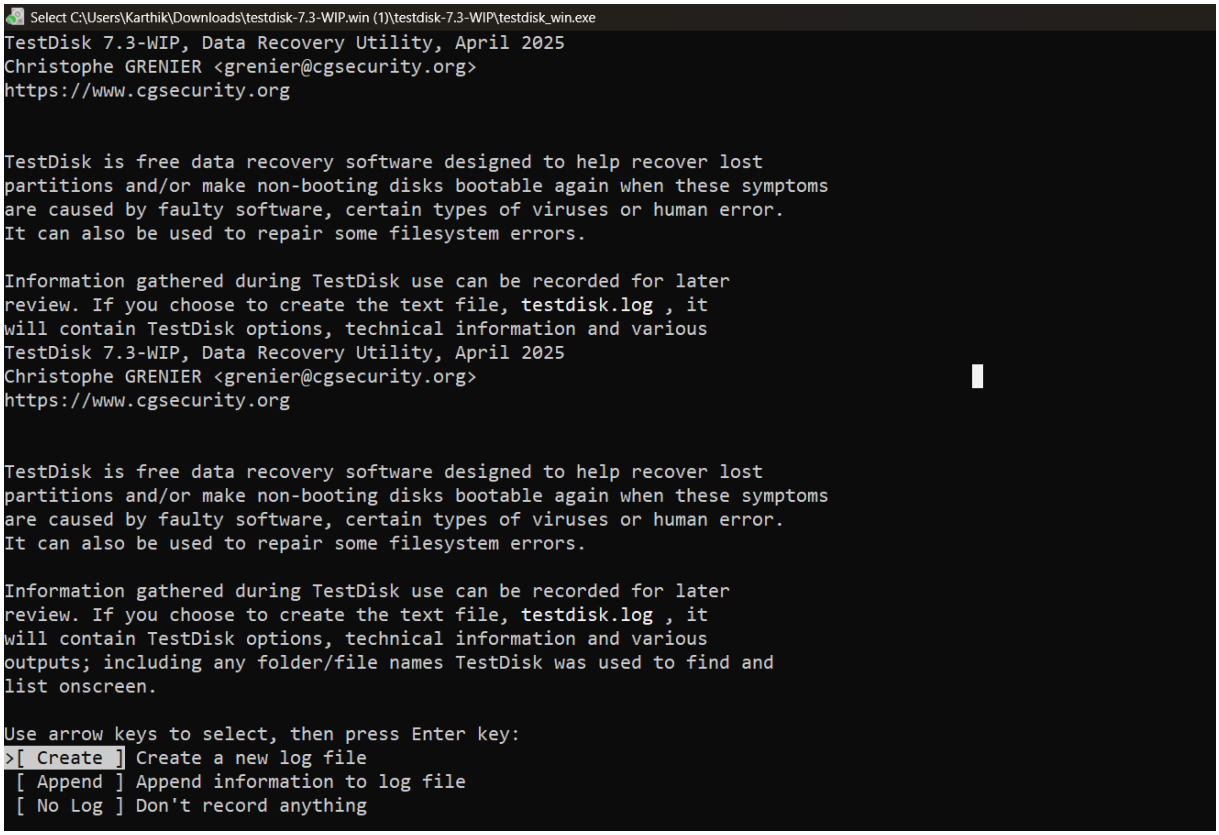
Requirements:

- TestDisk
- Windows

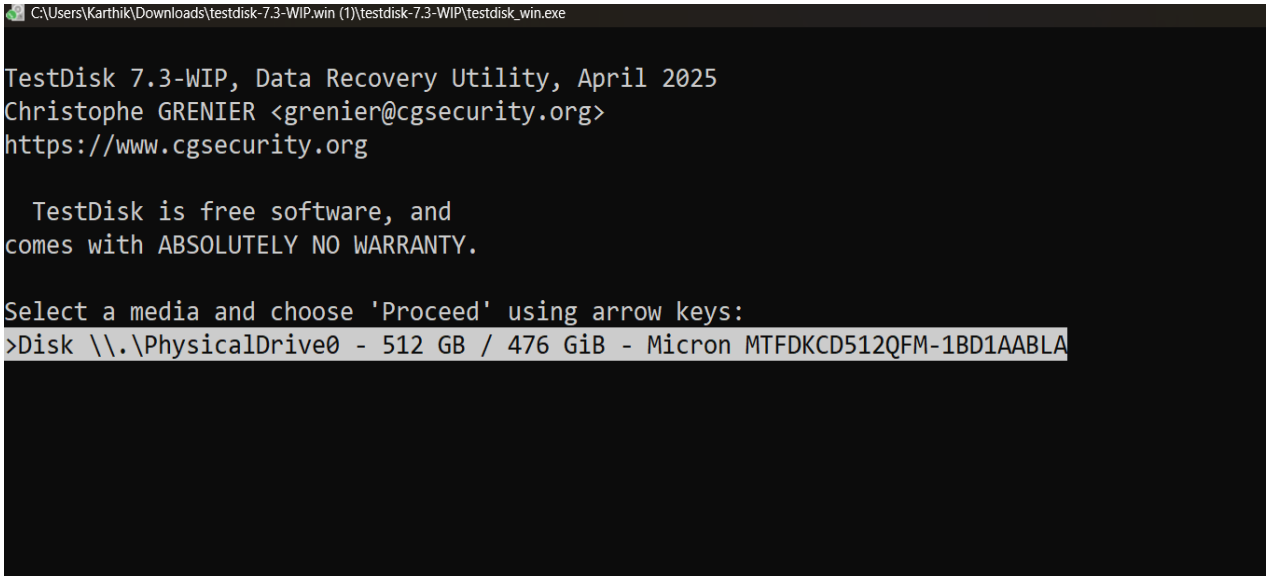
Description:

- TestDisk is an open-source forensic tool used for recovering lost partitions and repairing damaged boot sectors.
- It can restore accidentally deleted files from FAT, NTFS, ext2/ext3 file systems.
- Investigators use it to quickly recover inaccessible data and make disks bootable again.

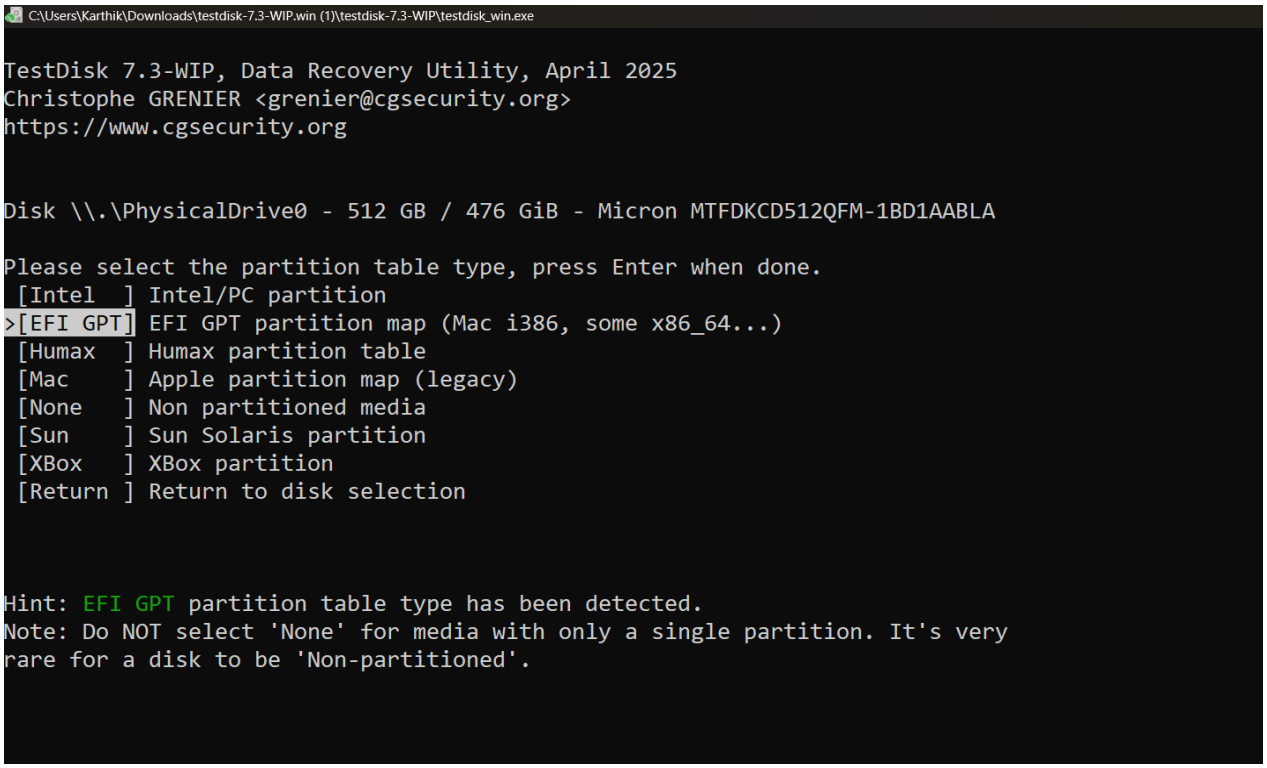
Step-1: Launch the TestDisk tool and in the terminal window, select “Create” to make a new log file and press Enter



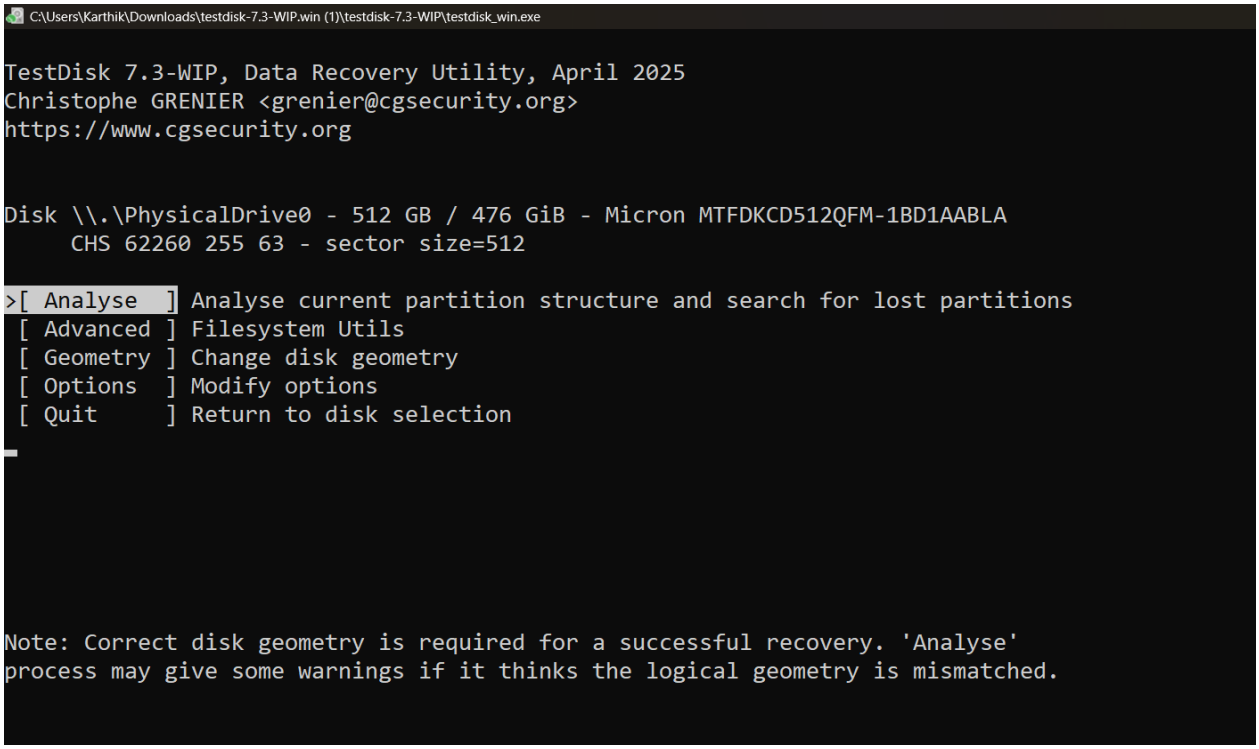
Step-2: TestDisk will list available disks (HDDs, SSDs, USB drives).Use the arrow keys to highlight the disk you want to analyze and Press Enter



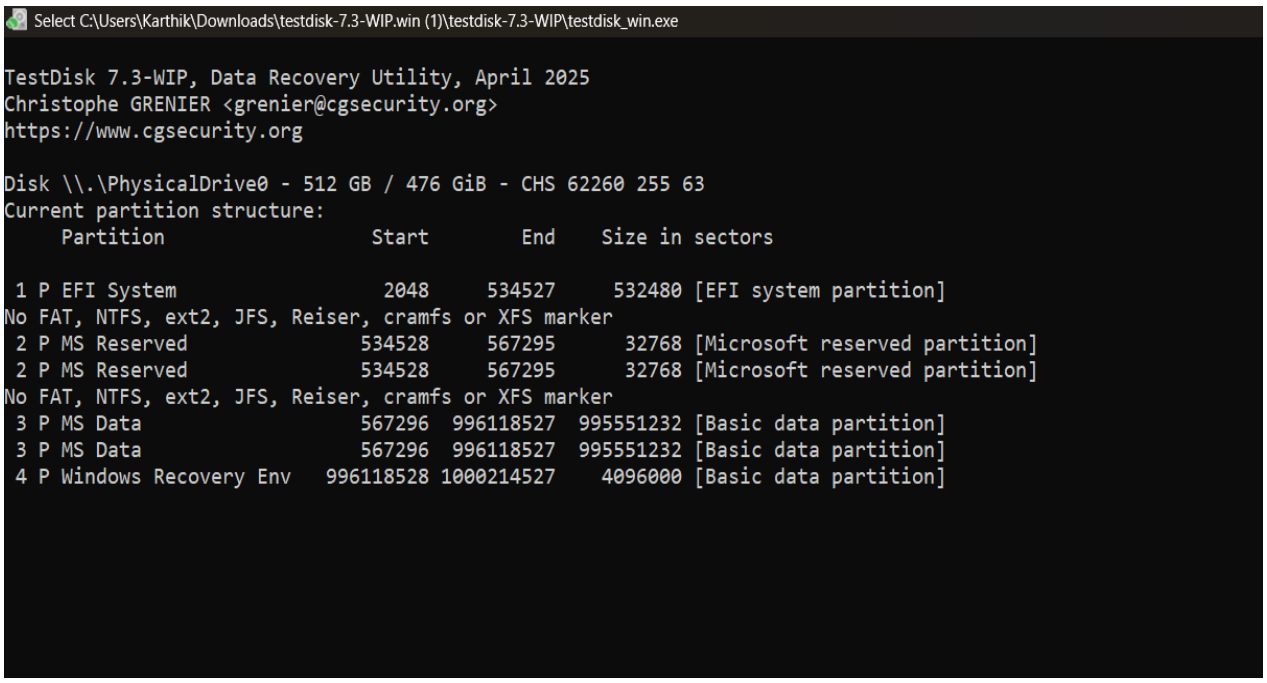
Step-3: TestDisk usually auto-detects the partition table (Intel/PC, EFI GPT, Mac, etc.). Verify and press Enter.



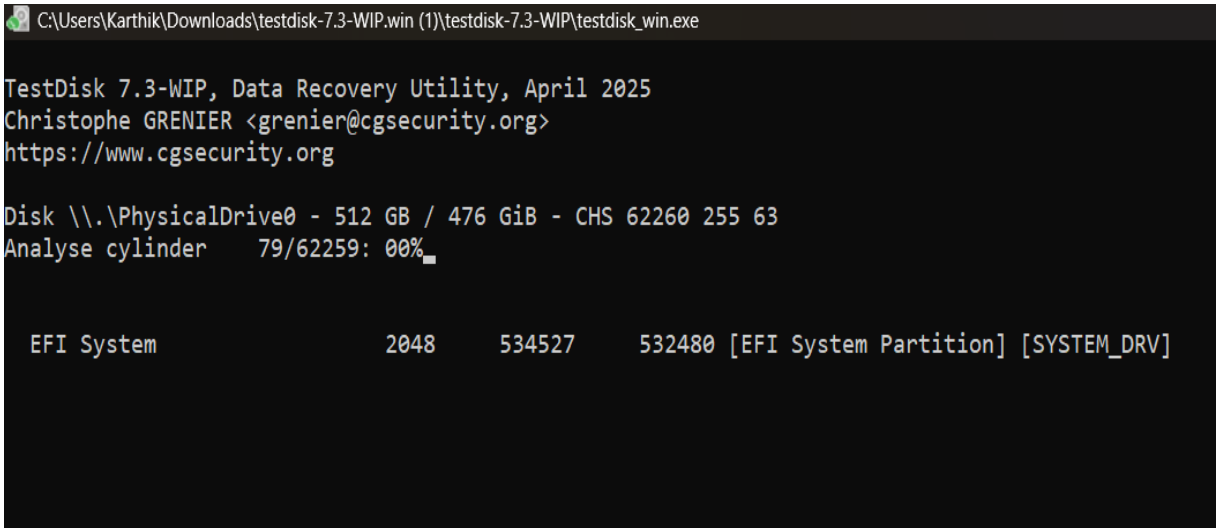
Step-4: Analyze the current partition structure, from the terminal select Analyse and press enter.



Step-5: After analysis you will be asked to perform Quick search select it and press Enter



Step-6: TestDisk scans the disk and lists lost partitions.



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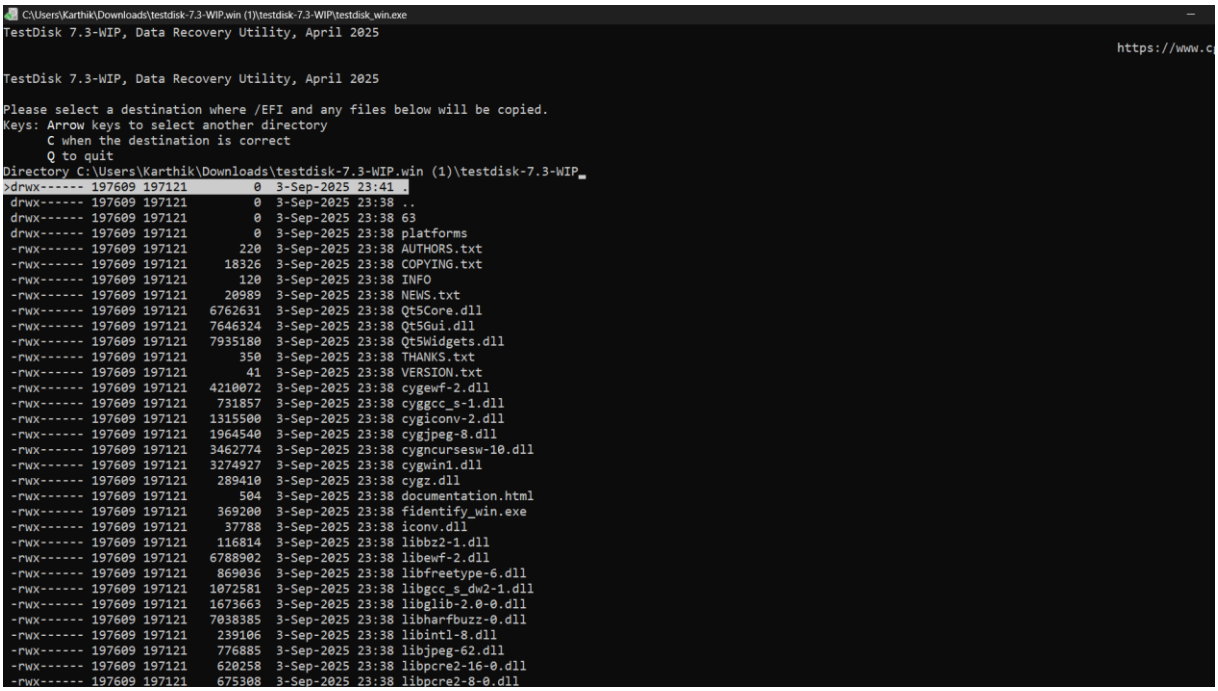
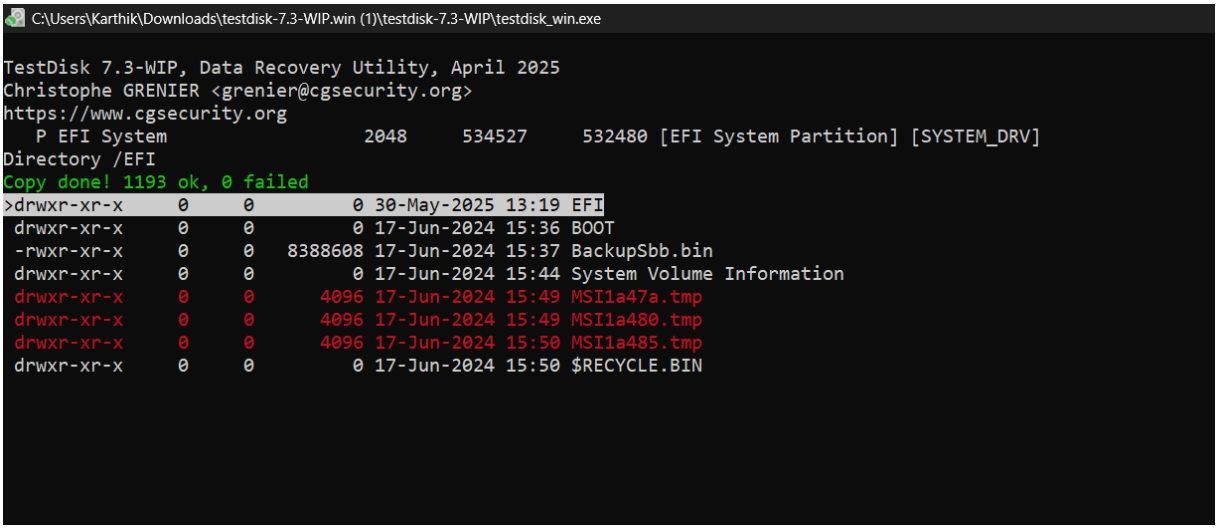
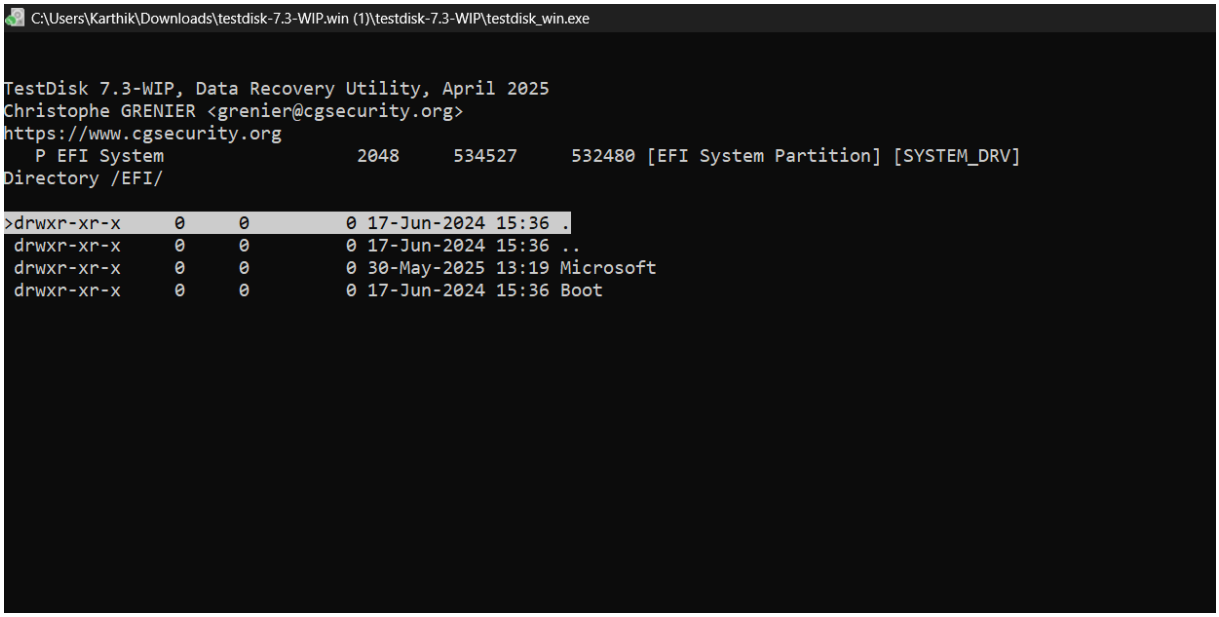
Step-7: Press “P” to view the list of files and “C” to copy the files.



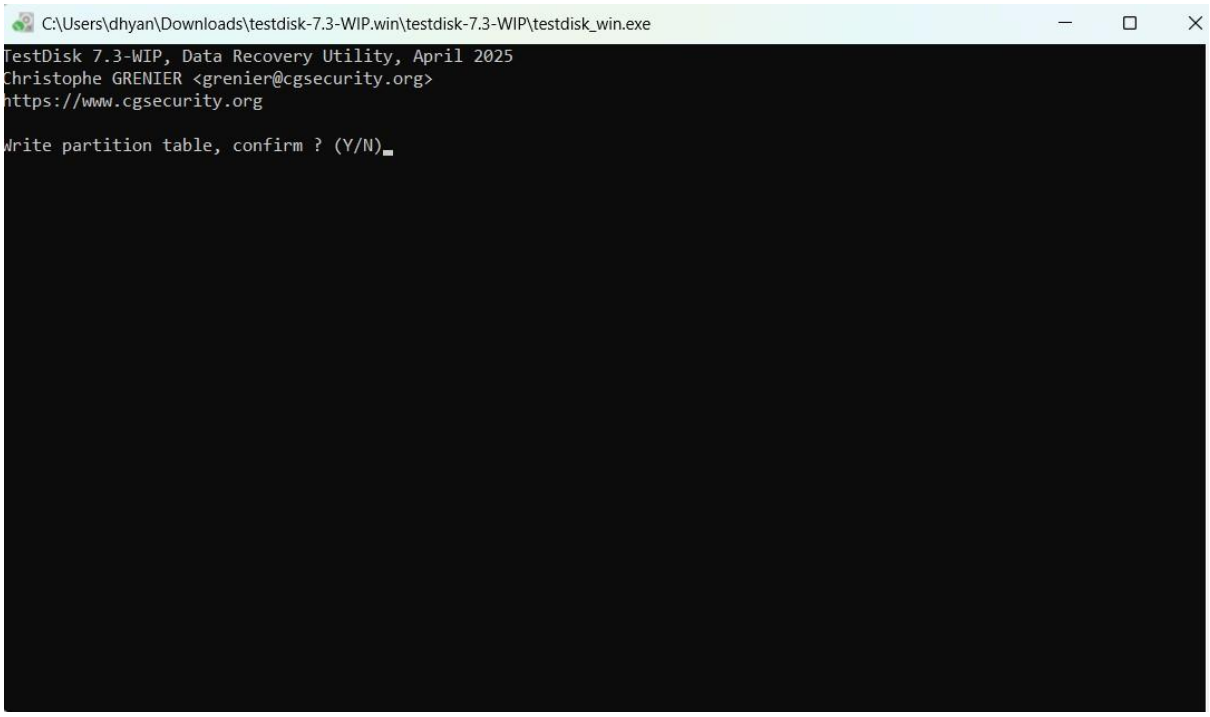
Step-8: If Quick Search does not find your partition/files, select “Deeper Search” and Enter. This takes longer but finds more recoverable partitions.



Step-9: Once you are confident the partition is correct, select “write” and press Enter.



Step-10: Confirm the operation by pressing “Y”. This will write partition table to your disk.



- Once recovery is complete, exit TestDisk by selecting “Quit”.
- Verify recovered files in the destination folder.
- TestDisk detected lost/deleted partitions.
- Files marked as deleted were listed and successfully copied to a safe location.
- Recovery was possible without altering original disk contents.