How to erase your hard drive.

1. Back up your data.

Make sure that you have everything you need off of your hard drive. Once this process is complete, your data will not be recoverable. For more information on backing up your data please see FAQ: Backing Up Data.

2. Download DBAN.

Download DBAN from the following site http://sourceforge.net/projects/dban/.

3. Burn DBAN to a CD.

You will need to burn the .iso file to a CD. For information about that, see <u>FAQ: Burning ISO to CD/DVD</u>

4. Insert DBAN CD into CD drive. Restart your computer to boot from CD.

If your computer boots up normally, reboot again and go into the boot menu by hitting F12.

You will get a menu that looks like the following.



Select CD-ROM Drive.

5. Once DBAN has booted, you will see the following screen.

```
Barik's Boot and Nuke

Harning: This software irrecoverably destroys data.

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http://www.dban.org/

* Press the F2 key to learn about DBAN.

* Press the F3 key for a list of quick commands.

* Press the F4 key for troubleshooting hints.

* Press the ENTER key to start DBAN in interactive mode.

* Enter autonuke at this prompt to start DBAN in automatic mode.
```

The easiest option is to type autonuke and hit enter. This will wipe all drives with default options. You will see a box with the status as pictured below.

```
Darik's Boot and Nuke 1.0.7
— Options — Entropy: Linux Kernel (urandom)
                                                                 Statistics
                                                   Runtime:
                                                                    00:01:19
                                                  Remaining: 05:45:47
Load Averages: 2.44 0.77 0.27
Throughput: 2079 KB/s
          Mersenne Twister (mt19937ar-cok)
PRNG:
Method:
          DoD Short
Verify:
          Last Pass
                                                   Throughput:
Rounds:
                                                   Errors:
 (IDE 0,0,0,-,-) QEMU HARDDISK
   [00.36%, round 1 of 1, pass 1 of 3] [writing] [1031 KB/s]
 (IDE 0,0,1,-,-) QEMU HARDDISK
   [01.47%, round 1 of 1, pass 1 of 3] [writing] [1048 KB/s]
```

This process can take several hours, depending on the size of the drive. When DBAN is finished, you will see message like the one below.

```
DBAN succeeded.
All selected disks have been wiped.
Remove the DBAN boot media and power off the computer.
Hardware clock operation start date: Mon Apr 02 11:30:38 2007
Hardware clock operation finish date: Mon Apr 02 11:31:36 2007
—
```