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.

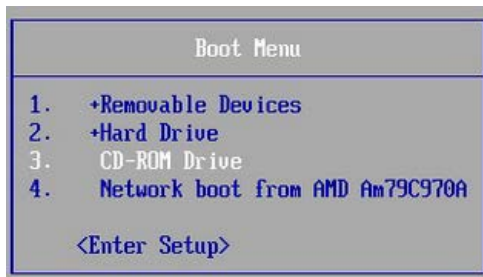Download DBAN from the following site http://sourceforge.net/projects/dban/.

3. Burn DBAN to a CD.

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

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.

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 ───                    ─── Statistics ───
Entropy: Linux Kernel (urandom)      Runtime:        00:01:19
PRNG:    Mersenne Twister (mt19937ar-cok)  Remaining:      05:45:47
Method:  DoD Short                   Load Averages: 2.44 0.77 0.27
Verify:  Last Pass                   Throughput:     2079 KB/s
Rounds:  1                           Errors:         0


  (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
```