**What is DBAN**

DBAN is a simple but effective method to completely obliterate the contents of hard disks (pictures, text files, etc.) on a Windows PC. It writes over the existing data making it virtually impossible to recover the data it over wrote. Many reasons for doing this include deleting information before a computer is disposed. Please be advised once this process is complete, there will no possible way to recover the destroyed data.

If you’re not completely sure you want to destroy the data then you may want to back up any important data and then use DBAN.

**Preparation:**

You will need to create a bootable DVD using the DBAN download, which is in .iso format.

If you’re unfamiliar with burning a bootable CD or DVD using Windows you may refer to this link. Be mindful this is a YouTube video and not a software link download for the purpose of avoiding any potential PC virus downloads.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-APBdo-wxb0&feature=iv&src_vid=eCRCPWhhxpo&annotation_id=annotation_632083505>

If you’re unfamiliar with booting a PC to a DVD you may refer to this link:

<http://www.pcworld.com/article/226935/how_to_boot_from_a_windows_dvd_or_another_optical_disc.html>

Otherwise, download DBAN from this link and create the bootable DVD.

<http://sourceforge.net/projects/dban/>

**Boot to DBAN:**

Now boot to the Windows PC from your newly created DBAN DVD or CD by selecting the designated key on your keyboard with the DVD already in the PC. On most PCs, pressing F10 or F12 upon power on and DBAN should load.

If DBAN doesn’t load try booting to the DVD/CD again. If it still fails there may be a hardware issue that conflicts with DBAN such as a certain type of drive or older system. If that is the case, please refer to these links for a list of reported issues and/or currently discussed issues.

*[DBAN sample error message]*

<http://sourceforge.net/p/dban/bugs/>

<http://sourceforge.net/p/dban/discussion/208932>

*[DBAN start screen]*

**Using DBAN:**

You have reached the start screen where you can select your option. Again, please be advised of the severity of wiping out a hard drive. If you’re sure, press the ENTER key for interactive mode or “autonuke” if you are 110% ready to start.

DBAN is in action and shows the progress. It displays the percentage and time running.

*[DBAN progress screen]*

DBAN has wiped out the selected drive.

*[DBAN confirmation screen]*

**DBAN FAQ (frequently asked questions)**

*Will DBAN work properly if my BIOS will not work?*

Yes. DBAN will still work if BIOS does not detect all of the hard disks. DBAN will work as long as BIOS can start it from the boot media.

*How many disks can DBAN wipe at the same time?*

There are no official written limits in DBAN, but PCI bus bandwidth is usually the deciding issue. If you have a device to wipe out multiple disks, then the most important component is a motherboard with multiple PCI buses. Additional CPU size and memory are optional.

*Why doesn't DBAN detect the disks in a RAID array?*

DBAN has drivers for most RAID situations, but DBAN will not disassemble RAID volumes automatically. You must manually put each component into “single” mode so each RAID disk will be recognized by DBAN.

These questions cover the more common issues. For more detailed information and/or troubleshooting on existing and current issues please visit the main website below.

<http://www.dban.org>