

MAC LESSON #74

SECURELY ERASE YOUR MAC HARD DRIVE

With all the new Intel-based Mac computers now available to Mac enthusiasts, many of us will upgrade to a new Mac computer. So what do we do with our old Mac machines? You can sell, give, trade or junk your old Mac computer, but before you do, make sure that your personal and private data is erased. This is a must! Here's how to do it.

First things first - back up all of your files and then transfer everything you need to your new Mac. Now restart the old Mac from the Mac OS X installation disc.

Open Disk Utility and select your disk from the list on the left. Now click on the Erase tab and then on Security Options. Next, choose one of the several erasure methods that are offered. The 7-Pass Erase option will do the job well for most of us, but if you're truly paranoid, select the 35-Pass Erase, which will make it nearly impossible for anyone, even your local data recovery expert, to recover your files. If you're using a laptop, make sure it's plugged in. This process can take a long time and you don't want the process to stop before it's completed. That would be bad news!

