

Erase Panel

This panel may be used to completely and securely erase the contents of the selected drive. Note: This function is a convenience to the user, since you can do essentially the same job with Apple's Disk Utility, which comes standard with Mac OS X.

Preliminaries

The drive selected in the top panel is the one that will be erased. Be extremely careful to choose the target so that you don't write to the wrong device or volume.

If you have used Data Rescue to scan and/or recover files from the drive, make certain that you have checked that the recovered files actually contain good contents (i.e. open properly in an application) before erasing the original drive.

Reasons to Erase

Erasing is only useful if you need to prevent the recovery of any information that was previously stored on the media. It is not needed if you simply want to reformat or repartition the disk to install a new operating system, etc.

Erasure Level

There are three erasure levels supported, and selected by the slider in the panel. Level 1, the default, makes a single pass through the media, writing zeros to every block. Level 2 makes 2 passes: the first writes random values to every block, and the second writes zeros. Level 3 makes 4 passes: the first 3 passes write random values to every block, and the final one writes zeros.