



Version 3.0

User Manual



www.diskpurge.com

Table of Contents

Introduction	3
New Features.....	4
Getting Started.....	4
Getting to the BIOS	5
Starting Disk Purge	6
STEP 1: Selecting a Disk Drive.....	7
STEP 2: Configuring Security Level.....	8
STEP 3: Purge	9
STEP 4: Results.....	10
Frequently Asked Questions	11
Troubleshooting	12

Introduction

Thank You for Using Disk Purge Standard Edition!

Disk Purge is a utility which erases ALL data from a hard disk drive ensuring that information is truly removed and unrecoverable. This is important if you are donating, selling, or returning your computer since you do not want other users to look at personal information such as credit card numbers, tax returns, or social security numbers.

Disk purge uses a simple process which allows the user to select, configure, and erase any hard drive attached to a personal computer.

Disk Purge:

- Erases USB, SCSI, FIREWIRE, ATA, SATA hard drives
- Erases USB flash drives
- Erases RAIDs
- Works with any PC based operating system (All versions of DOS, Windows, and Linux)
- Erases partitions or entire drive
- Three different security levels for sanitizing hard drives
- Easy-to-Use graphical interface
- Time estimates and progress bar
- Completion certificate for each hard drive
- Complies with Department of Defense 5220-22 procedure for eliminating data

System Requirements:

- Pentium class microprocessor or better
- 32 MB RAM
- CD ROM Drive
- VGA video card

New Features

- *Hard Drive Health Check* – Let's you know if your hard drive is working as it should
- *Sector Viewer* – View what is actually on your computer and verify that information is completely removed
- *New and Improved* – Expanded support for new and old computer hardware systems

Getting Started

Disk Purge runs from a bootable CD disc. Simply insert the CD disc into the CD ROM drive and restart your computer. When the PC restarts, Disk Purge will boot up the computer and the program will automatically run.

If the Disk Purge CD does not run automatically and your computer starts up into the operating system, such as Windows™, then you simply need to change the boot settings on your computer through the BIOS utility.

Review our next section on "*Getting to the BIOS*" or refer to your computer's owner manual to alter the boot sequence in the computer BIOS.

Getting to the BIOS

When you turn on your computer, you will see a screen called a 'BIOS screen' briefly display before your computer boots into the Windows operating system. On this screen, it commonly tells you which function key to use to access your settings, such as F1, F2, or ESC keys. Be sure to press the appropriate key before Windows™ operating system comes up.

Here is a list of common function keys to access the BIOS utility on your computer:

Computer*	Function Keys
Acer	F1, F2, CTRL+ALT+ESC
Compaq	F10
CompUSA	DEL
Dell	F2 or DEL
eMachine	DEL
Gateway	F1 or F2
HP	F1, F2
IBM	F1 or F2
Micron	F1, F2, or DEL
Packard Bell	F1, F2, or DEL
Sony VIAO	F2
Toshiba	F1 or ESC

*Consult your computer's user manual for specific function key to access the BIOS utility.

In the BIOS Utility

1. Use the arrow keys on your keyboard to navigate to the 'Boot Sequence' menu.
2. Change the boot setting so that the CD-ROM drive is listed before the hard drive or C:drive.
3. Save your settings and exit the BIOS setup using the on screen prompts.
4. Insert Disk Purge CD-ROM and restart your computer to run Disk Purge.

Starting Disk Purge

During computer restart, Disk Purge is scanning the computer looking for all attached disk. Depending on the age of the computer this may take as long as 5 minutes. During this process the following screen will appear on the monitor.



Figure 1 Disk Purge Loading Screen

STEP 1: Selecting a Disk Drive

Once Disk Purge is loaded it will automatically go to the Select screen (see Figure 2). This will display all the disks attached to the PC. Disk Purge will display the disk drive capacity, model number, and serial number (if applicable) on the screen. USB disk drives, and memory sticks will use a USB icon in the select screen. Simply select the disk drive you wish to sanitize and press next.

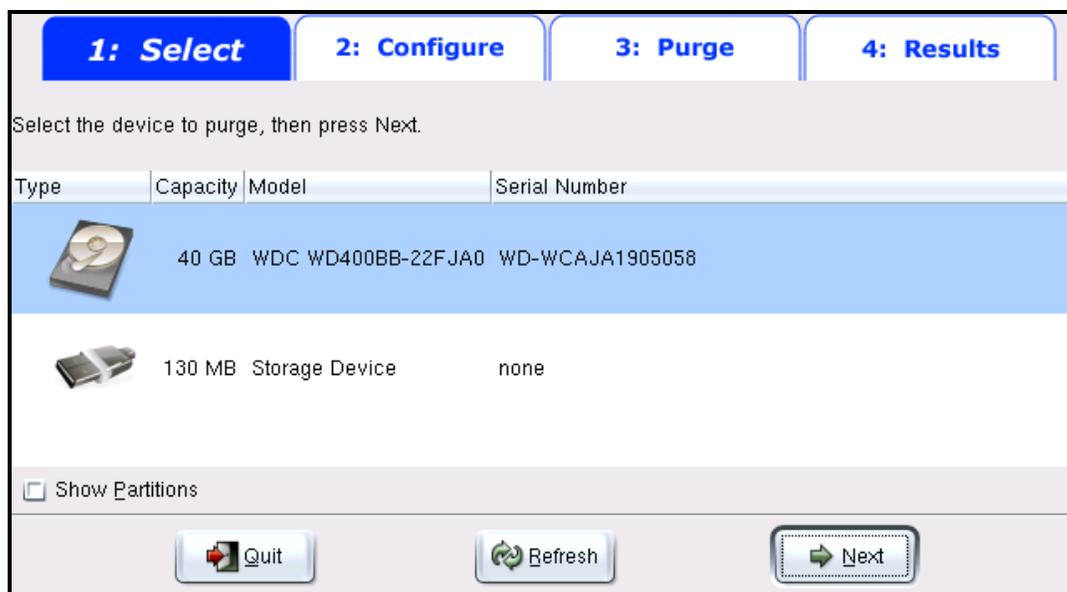


Figure 2: Select Screen

Buttons on the Select screen:

Show Partitions: Click on this check box when you wish to view and erase individual partitions on any of displayed disk drives. If you select the drive itself, it will automatically erase all partitions.

Quit: Click on this button when you wish to quit Disk Purge. This will prevent you from going further in the program and will eject the CD.

Refresh: Click on this button if you want to view any new disk drive or memory sticks you may have attached to the computer since booting up Disk Purge.

Next: Click on this button once you have selected the disk drive, partition, or memory stick you wish to sanitize and would like to continue the data purging process.

STEP 2: Configuring Security Level

After a disk drive has been selected, the Configure screen will appear (see Figure 3). There are 3 levels of security which you may choose from. Each level will overwrite all data on the drive a predetermined number of times to ensure it cannot be retrieved. Thus the higher the degree of security the longer it will take to purge your disk drive of data. Each security level provides an estimated completion time as well as an explanation of the level of assurance.

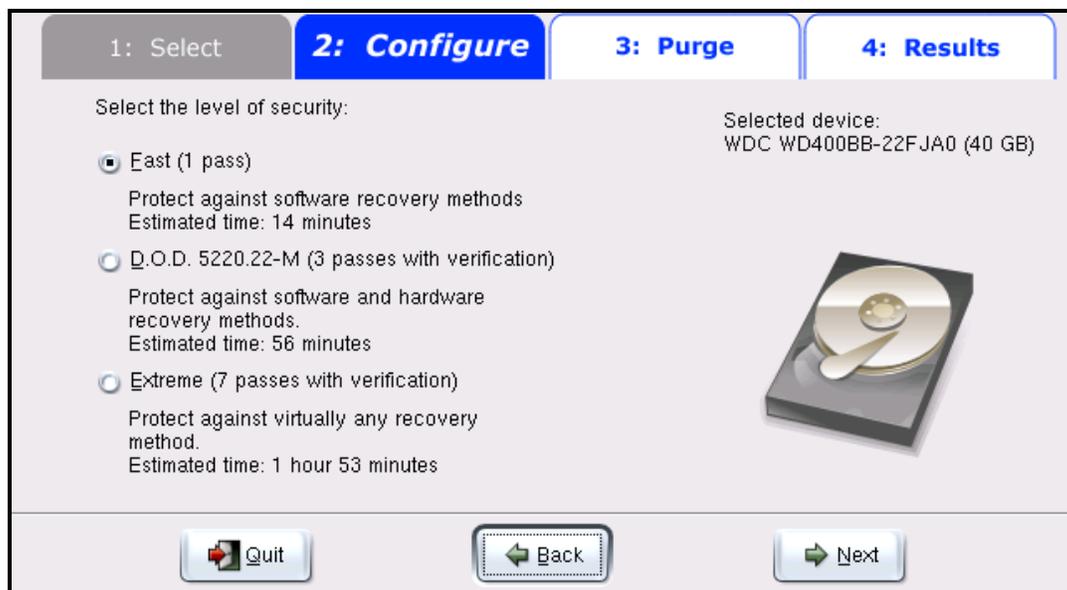


Figure 3: Configure Screen

Buttons on the Configure Screen:

Fast: Click on this check box if you wish to run a fast purge this will overwrite all data on the disk drive with 1 pass protecting against software recovery methods

D.O.D.: Click on this check box if you wish to purge the disk drive to US Department of Defense recommended procedures for eliminating data. This overwrites the disk drive with 3 passes and verifies the results. This method will protect against software and hardware recovery methods.

Extreme: Click on this check box if you wish to purge the disk drive seven times for greatest assurance, protecting against virtually any recovery method.

Quit: Click on this button when you wish to quit Disk Purge. This will prevent you from going further in the program and will eject the CD.

Back: Click on this button if you wish to return to the Select screen and choose another disk drive other than what was selected previously.

Next: Click on this button once you have selected the desired security level and would like to continue the data purging process.

STEP 3: Purge

After the security configuration is complete the Purge screen will appear confirming all the selections made thus far (See Figure 4). At this point Disk Purge is armed and ready to sanitize your disk drive.

Warning: Once the purging process starts data will be erased and is unrecoverable.

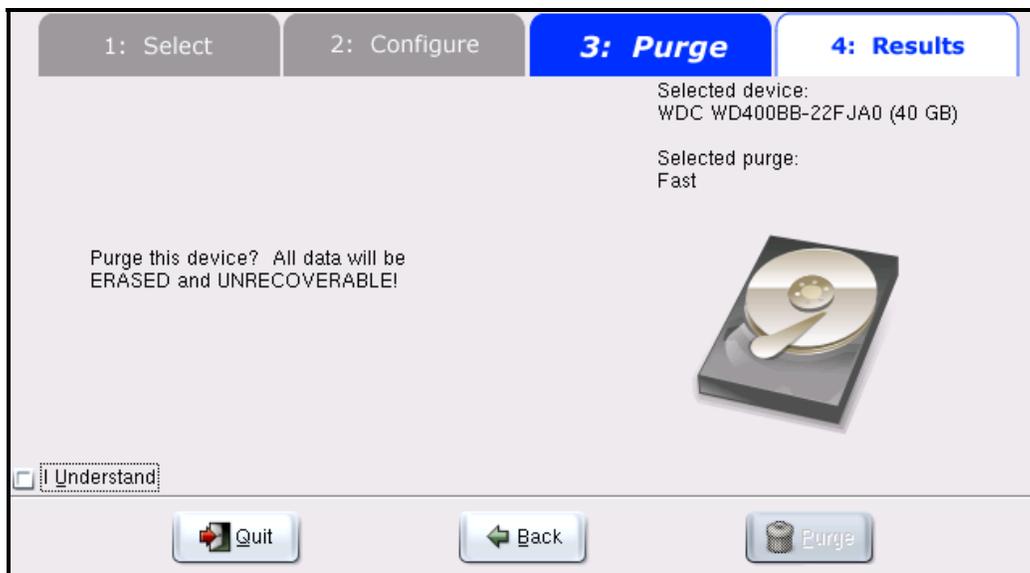


Figure 4: Purge Screen

Buttons on the Purge screen:

I Understand: Click on this check box to confirm the purge process you are about to execute. This box must be checked before the Purge button becomes active

Quit: Click on this button when you wish to quit Disk Purge. This will prevent you from going further in the program and will eject the CD.

Back: Click on this button if you wish to return to the Configure screen and choose another security level.

Purge: This button becomes active once the "I understand" checkbox is clicked. When the Purge button is pressed, Disk Purge will proceed to sanitize the selected hard disk.

Warning: Once the purging process starts data will be erased and is unrecoverable.

STEP 4: Results

When disk purge completes its execution the Results screen will appear confirming the completion of the sanitization process (See Figure 5).

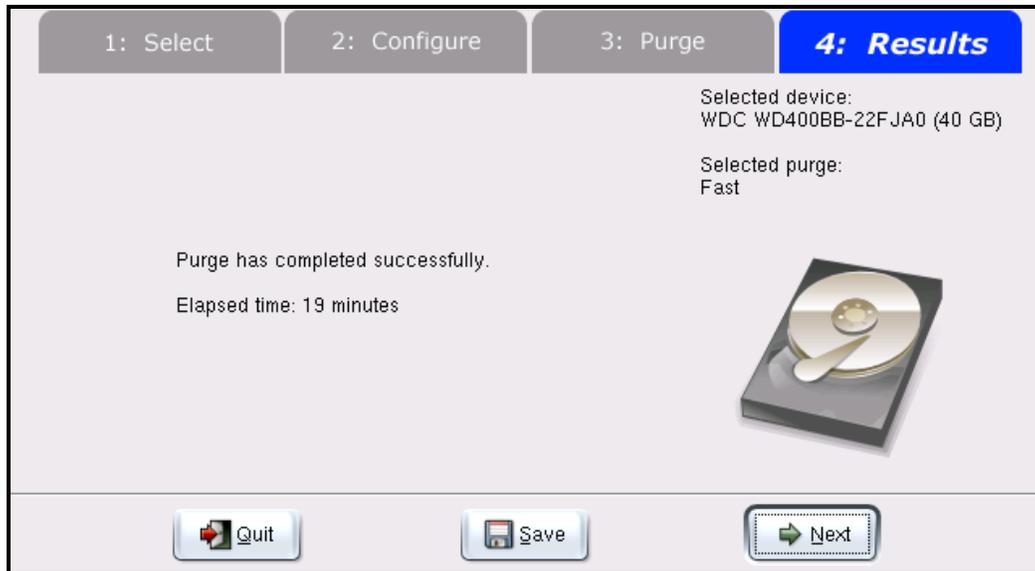


Figure 5: Results Screen

Buttons on the Results screen:

Quit: Click on this button when you wish to quit Disk Purge and eject the CD.

Save: Click on this button if you wish to create a disk drive purge certificate (Figure 6)

Next: Click on this button if you wish to restart the Disk Purge process without rebooting.

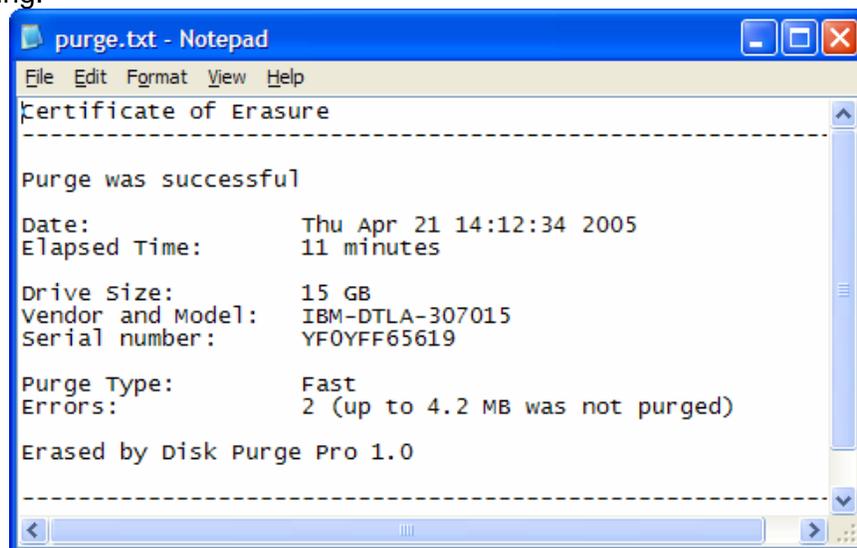


Figure 6: Disk Purge Certificate

Frequently Asked Questions

Why do I need Disk Purge?

If you own a paper shredder you need Disk Purge! A recent study by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology found that over 90% of used computer examined contained confidential information about the previous owner, including social security numbers, credit card numbers, banking information, medical records, and personal information.

Prevent Identity Theft! If you are selling, returning, donating, or recycling your computer, Disk Purge will ensure that your computer and hard drive are sanitized of all personal and confidential information.

Why deleting files and formatting disk drives is not enough?

If you own a paper shredder you need Disk Purge! A recent study by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology found that over 90% of used computer examined contained confidential information about the previous owner, including social security numbers, credit card numbers, banking information, medical records, and personal information.

Prevent Identity Theft! If you are selling, returning, donating, or recycling your computer, Disk Purge will ensure that your computer and hard drive are sanitized of all personal and confidential information.

My old computer will not even boot up – do I still need to use Disk Purge?

Yes – even if an old computer has an unstable operating system or does not boot up, their still could be confidential personal information on the hard drive that you wish to protect. Disk purge will work even if your old computer is corrupt, does not boot up, or is missing an operating system.

Will Disk Purge erase my operating system?

Yes, Disk Purge will erase everything from your hard drive including applications and your operating system. Before purging your computer, you may want to locate your computer's software and operating disks if you plan on re-installing the operating system.

How does disk purge sanitize my disk drive of all information?

By overwriting every byte on your hard drive, Disk Purge ensures that all data is irretrievable on your disk drive. Disk Purge uses approved Department of Defense standards and even more extreme measures to guarantee your drive is cleansed of all information.

How do I know all my information has been removed?

Disk Purge Standard Edition provides a utility called a *Sector Viewer* in which you can view the contents of your hard drive. After purging you can use the Sector Viewer to verify that data has been properly removed from your hard drive.

What if Disk Purge reports errors during the cleansing process?

As Disk Purge is overwriting the disk drive, it may encounter reading and writing errors from the hardware (bad blocks). This means that particular block of bytes on the disk drive is bad and Disk Purge could not read or write to those blocks. Because those bytes were bad it is unlikely that data could ever be retrieved from them; however, since Disk Purge could not overwrite the data on those blocks Disk Purge could not sanitize the entire disk drive.

Troubleshooting

Problems booting to CD

Disk Purge runs from a bootable CD disc. Simply insert the CD disc into the CD ROM drive and restart your computer. When the PC restarts, Disk Purge will boot up the computer and the program will automatically run.

If this does not work, you will have to change the boot sequence in the computer BIOS. Refer to your computer's owner manual to alter the boot sequence in the computer BIOS.

Still Having Trouble?

Visit us at www.diskpurge.com/Support/index.asp to find more troubleshooting steps and to submit a help request to our support staff.

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