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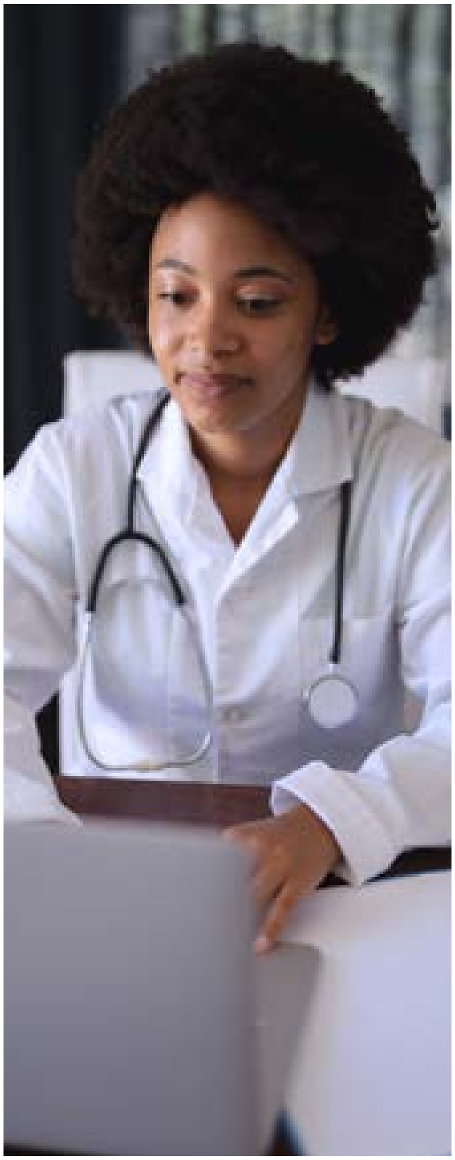
Meeting NCSC & NHS Guidance on Data Sanitisation



If you are a healthcare organisation, or part of a National Health Service (NHS) network or trust, you might be familiar with NHS guidelines on good practices for sensitive data disposal and sanitisation on data storage devices and active data.

These recommendations are vital for ensuring organisations mitigate risks of information disclosure, and that patients' personally identifiable information (PII) and other critical or sensitive data is securely erased. This can minimise potential data leaks including the associated risks with IT asset chain of custody and inappropriate, non-certified data destruction methods. Furthermore, they assist organisations in conforming to the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) guidance on Secure Sanitisation of Storage Media.

What is Data Sanitisation?

The NCSC describes sanitisation as the process of treating data held on storage media to reduce the likelihood of that data being reconstructed or retrieved.

What are the Risks of Incorrect Sanitisation Methods?

As discussed in the NCSC Secure Sanitisation of Storage Media guidance, there are several potential complications of not sanitising data properly:

- ☑ Unknown whereabouts of sensitive or classified data
- ☑ Loss of control over your information assets
- ☑ Critical data recovered and used by adversaries or competitors
- ☑ Private or personal data about patients or staff could be used to commit fraud or identity theft
- ☑ Your intellectual property could be recovered and published openly, leading to loss of reputation and revenue

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What Types of IT Assets Need to Be Addressed?

According to the NCSC recommendations, the following types of assets should be considered when following data sanitisation best practices:

- HDDs and SSDs in laptops, desktops, and servers
- Printers, photocopiers and scanners *
- Mobile telephones, digital recorders, and cameras
- Removable media (USB devices, SD cards, etc.)

These devices must be sanitised properly and securely, allowing redistribution or redeployment into an organisation, promoting proper reuse of IT equipment. Blancco erases all the media types listed above and allows remote erasure to make the process easier and more efficient.

In addition, data must also be sanitised on active networks (specifically, N3). Erasure must occur when data reaches the end of its retention date or is at end-of-use, ensuring redundant, obsolete and trivial (ROT) data does not linger on live systems, and evidence of this sanitisation must be readily available. The NHS Destruction and Disposal of Sensitive Data guidelines state:

"It is recommended that a log of all media is kept that may contain sensitive information. This should detail the specification of the media and its effective end of use date.... The log should also contain a section for destruction or removal certificates; these provide evidence guaranteeing the destruction or sanitisation of the media by the nominated waste disposal contractor and the date on which the destruction occurred."

Source: NHS Digital, Destruction and Disposal of Sensitive Data, Good Practice Guidelines, Version 3.2

Blancco Certified Erasure Products & Solutions that Satisfy NCSC and NHS Guidelines

- **Blancco File Eraser** – erase sensitive records once they have passed their retention period/erase PII on live networks and across medical devices
- **Blancco Drive Eraser** – erase drives in PCs, laptops, Chromebooks, iOS devices/Macs, servers, etc. with sensitive information. SSDs can be securely erased using our patented SSD erasure method, an important development as SSDs become more popular within the NHS
- **Blancco Mobile Diagnostics & Erasure** – erase Android and iOS mobile devices including tablets and wearables
- **Blancco Removable Media Eraser** – erase sensitive data on USB devices, SD cards, DVDs and other removable media types
- **Blancco Active Erasure Solutions** – including Blancco File Eraser, Blancco LUN Eraser and Blancco Virtual Machine Eraser, for data centre erasure in live environments, whether corporate networks, servers, LUNs, laptops, etc.

* Applies to compatible printers, photocopiers and scanners that store data on an extractable drive for erasure through a dedicated machine.

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Enterprise Use Cases

- Storage & Loose Drives
- Enterprise Mobile Management
- Laptop & Desktop Erasure for Enterprise
- Data Retention Policies
- Data Center
- Cloud Migration

Why Blancco?

- ☑ A Certificate of Erasure (provided with every erasure instance) provides a tamper-proof audit trail to keep up to date with NCSC and NHS guidance. Organisations will not achieve this type of reporting or compliance with freeware and non-certified software-based wiping solutions.
- ☑ We work with a variety of partners registered within the Crown Commercial Services and G-Cloud procurement frameworks
- ☑ You have the ability to work directly with us or through your existing partners and frameworks
- ☑ We tackle the difficult challenge of data removal with patented SSD erasure methods avoiding the physical destruction of assets
- ☑ Our software erases to multiple sanitisation standards, including HMG Infosec and NIST-800-88 Clear & Purge
- ☑ We are the global leader in certified data erasure with over 20 years of industry experience
- ☑ Our products and solutions support CSR policies and initiatives supporting sustainability and the circular economy

Blancco offers products and solutions that help highly regulated industries, such as the government comply with data protection regulations and guidelines, from the NCSC, NHS and others.

Blancco data erasure solutions have been tested, certified, approved and recommended by 13+ governing bodies and leading organizations around the world. No other data erasure software can boast this level of compliance with the rigorous requirements set by government agencies, legal authorities, and independent testing laboratories.

Contact us today for additional information about how we can help you with your next compliance audit, gap or risk analysis or for help updating your policy in line with industry best practices and guidance.

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