## Data Erasure's Role in the Circular Economy Shifting end-of-life IT from hazardous disposal to secure reuse

Increased digitization and a slower rate of formal recycling are fueling global e-waste



#### A record 62 million tons

of e-waste was produced in 2022—up 82% from 2010



**Of this, 78%** goes to landfills or is treated outside of formal recycling arrangements



#### **Approximately 18%**

of e-waste is made up of computers, screens, smartphones, tablets, TVs, and other such devices



#### Only 2.5 billion kg

of screens, telecommunications, and small IT equipment is formally recycled from a total of 10.5 billion kg



#### By 2030, global e-waste is expected to increase to 82 million tons



# Improperly discarded technology can produce



#### Toxic pollutants

Mercury, lead, cadmium, and arsenic can pollute land and water, and fumes from improper recycling contaminate the air



#### Carbon emissions

Incineration generates carbon dioxide, and mining new materials often emits more gas than recycling from used devices



Materials scarcity

Concerns over availability of materials for new electronic devices is rising



#### Unauthorized data access

**36%** of the world's largest organizations use inappropriate data removal methods at disposal, leaving data unprotected

### With 83% of organizations having a CSR or ESG policy in place, why is this happening?



Lack of education



52%

of surveyed organizations believe physical destruction is **"better for the environment"** 

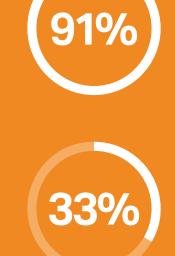
of surveyed organizations believe destruction is **more secure** than other data solutions





of CSR policies address end-of-life equipment, **but implementation responsibilities can be vague** 

communication



of surveyed organizations have **yet to communicate** existing CSR policies across their organizations

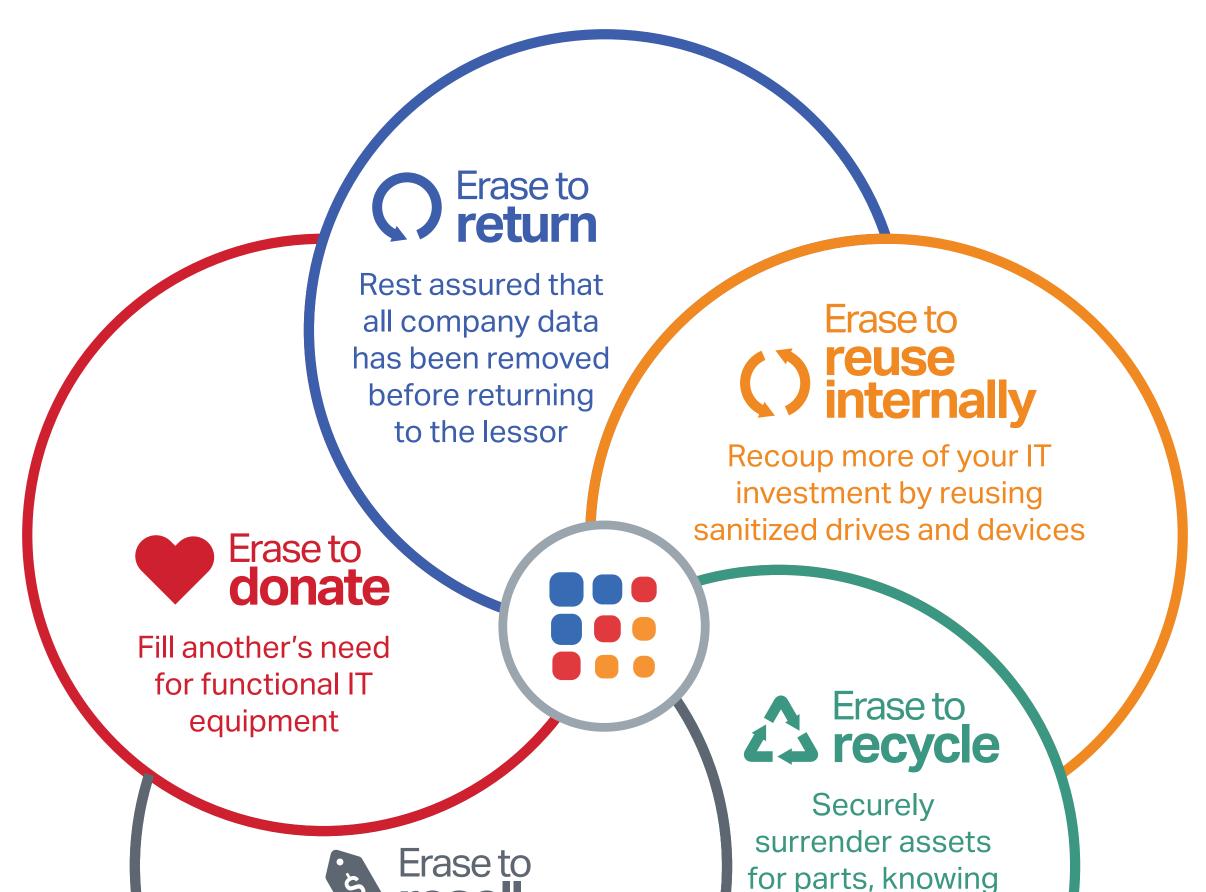


Lack of robust regulations

Environmental regulations are often non-existent, patchworked, poorly enforced or difficult to fulfill

# Kill data, not devices

Securely sanitize data storage devices, then confidently keep them in the circular economy



#### **resell**

Keep drives and devices intact, but render them free of confidential data before resale sensitive data will never be retrieved from chips or hidden storage areas

# Treat e-waste responsibly with Blancco secure data erasure

Ensure data is **100% gone** from your IT assets—**for good**—and have the **Certificate of Erasure** to prove it. Blancco offers certified, secure data erasure software for servers, desktops and laptops, mobile devices, loose drives, removable media, and more.

Understand secure disposal options at device end-of-life:

Visit <u>"Technology Recycling vs.</u> <u>Reuse</u>" to discover a greener option for end-of-life IT assets.



www.blancco.com

#### Sources

Global e-Waste Monitor 2024 (UNITAR, March 2024)

Poor Sustainability Practices – Enterprises are Overlooking the e-Waste Problem (Blancco, Apr 2020) A False Sense of Security (Blancco, Nov 2019)