



## BEFORE YOU DONATE YOUR OLD COMPUTER

If you are purchasing a new computer and have no need for your old one, you may wish to donate it. One agency in Tucson that I recommend is [RISE Computer Recycling Center](#). They will refurbish your old computer and make it available to non-profit organizations.

Also, **before** you dispose of your computer, be sure to wipe your hard drive clean!!! **Did you know that personal information may be extracted from your computer even if you have deleted the files or formatted the drives?** Researchers have purchased used computers from thrift shops and yard sales and have retrieved credit card info and social security numbers!



You can purchase a commercial disk wiping utility, or you can download a free utility at <http://dban.sourceforge.net/>. If your old computer has a floppy drive, download the utility to create a boot floppy. After you create the boot disk, put it in the drive and turn on the computer. Type *autonuke* at the prompt. It will take a while to run as it wipes the hard disk three times. You can also create a cd to wipe the computer.

**Remember to ONLY use this utility to destroy ALL the data on your old computer!!!**

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