

REDKEY USB

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Data Wipe Kit - User Guide



Bluekey 16GB: Reinstall your operating system.

Greenkey 128GB: Perfect for backing up your essential files.

Redkey USB: Ensures complete and secure data erasure.

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Contents

This guide walks you through using the data wipe kit step by step. Start by creating a disk for operating system reinstallation. Then, back up the files you wish to retain. Proceed to wipe your computer clean. At the end, reinstall the operating system and the files you saved. Ensure you read the entire guide before beginning. For further details on Redkey, consult our support page at: <https://redkeyusb.com/pages/technical-information>

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To access the most recent version of this guide, please scan the QR code or visit:

<https://tinyurl.com/RKKITGUIDE>

You are currently viewing guide version V5.1.



Before using your Redkey, please activate it online and ensure you have the latest software update. Detailed instructions and activation codes are provided on the accompanying postcards. Begin by visiting <https://redkeyusb.com/pages/activate-update-software> and download the updater software suitable for PC desktops and laptops. Ensure your system runs on Windows 7 or newer and has internet access. The download size is approximately 1GB. If your code is misplaced, the software offers an option to request a new one.



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Safety Notices and Precautions

Preparing to Dispose of a Computer? Ensure All Data is Removed.

Before selling or giving away your computer, it's essential to erase all its data. This kit assists in this process, erasing all information. It also provides dedicated USBs for operating system reinstallation and for restoring backed-up data.

The One-Go Process: Irreversible Action.

Once Redkey is started, it begins wiping all data, and this process can not be stopped. Interruption could result in damage to the computer's storage.

Types of Storage Redkey Can Clear.

Redkey is designed to erase a variety of storage types within a computer. Ensure all external storage devices meant to be preserved are disconnected and back up essential files beforehand.

Post-Redkey Disk Status: Potential Reformatting Needed.

After using Redkey, the computer's storage will revert to a pristine, unformatted state. If repurposing this storage, it might require reformatting. Redkey can assist in this task.

Initiating Redkey: Accessing the Boot Menu.

To engage Redkey, power on the computer and continuously tap the boot key until the Boot Menu is displayed. Select Redkey to launch the software and then press the required button to start the wipe.

Optimal Sequence for Using the Tools:

For a thorough wipe and system restoration, follow these steps in sequence:

1. Use **Bluekey** to prep the operating system for reinstallation.
2. Utilise **Greenkey** to back up crucial files.
3. Activate **Redkey** to remove all data.
4. Use **Bluekey** once more to reinstall the operating system.
5. Employ **Greenkey** to restore the backed-up files to the computer.

Create O/S Media

Backup Data

Wipe Data

Restore O/S

Restore Backup



Key Points to Remember:

Redkey clears out everything from your computer, including the operating system. Use the Bluekey to add the operating system back in.

Setting Up with Bluekey:

Before using Redkey, it's wise to set up your Bluekey. Especially if you're working on and wiping just one computer, it's crucial to have the Bluekey ready so you can get the operating system back.

Windows Users:

Get Microsoft's tool to create a new Windows installer. Don't worry, we'll guide you on its use later.

Need a Code for Windows?

When reinstalling Windows, you might need a unique code. For most, Windows 10 and 11 will handle it by themselves. However, you can also locate your previous code or purchase a new one online.

Mac Users:

A lot of Macs allow you to get the operating system back from the internet. This means with a Mac, you might not even need the Bluekey. Once you've used Redkey on your Mac, turn it on again and follow the easy steps shown to you to get the operating system.

Linux Enthusiasts:

If you're a Linux user, you probably know how to set up a new installer. We recommend combining Rufus with the Bluekey for this. Be sure to set this up before Redkey use. Choosing Debian Linux is a solid option.



Restoring Windows After Redkey Use:

To bring Windows back onto your computer post-Redkey, your best bet is Microsoft's "Windows Media Creation Tool". Look it up online, navigate to Microsoft's official site and fetch it. Decide on the version of Windows you prefer and adhere to the on-screen guidance.

Handy Insights for Windows Installation:

When using the Windows Media Creation Tool, it sets up a standard "Retail" Windows variant. A plus point is, it's free of any unwanted add-on software. However, some custom features like particular keyboard keys might be missing. You can usually retrieve them by installing the right drivers later on.

A Heads-Up for Windows 11 Users:

Windows 11 demands a more powerful computer compared to its predecessors. If you're in two minds about your computer's capability, it's advisable to stick with your previous Windows edition. Upgrading can always be considered later when you're certain of your machine's readiness.

Microsoft | Software Download Windows Windows Insider Preview All Microsoft Search

Download Windows 11

(Current release: Windows 11 22H2 Update 1 Version 22H2)

There are 3 options below for installing or creating Windows 11 media. Check out each one to determine the best option for you.

If you are upgrading from Windows 10, we recommend that you wait until you are notified through Windows Update that the upgrade is ready for your PC.


Before installing, please refer to the [PC Health Check](#) app to confirm your device meets the minimum system requirements for Windows 11 and check the [Windows release information status](#) for known issues that may affect your device.

Windows 11 Installation Assistant

This is the best option for installing Windows 11 on the device you're currently using. Click **Download Now** to get started.

Before you begin using Installation Assistant

[Download Now](#)



Create Windows 11 Installation Media

If you want to perform a reinstall or clean install of Windows 11 on a new or used PC, use this option to download the media creation tool to make a bootable USB or DVD.

Before you begin using the media creation tool

[Download Now](#)

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Bluekey: Creating Windows Installation Media



Plug in Your Bluekey:

First, connect your Bluekey USB to your computer. Then go to Microsoft's website to download the Windows Media Creation Tool. Open the tool by double-clicking the downloaded file.

Agree to the Terms:

You'll see some terms and conditions. Read them and click "Accept" if you agree.

Pick Your Settings:

Next, you'll choose the language and type of Windows you want. If you're using the computer you're going to wipe, the settings that show up are probably fine. Click "Next."

Pick USB Drive:

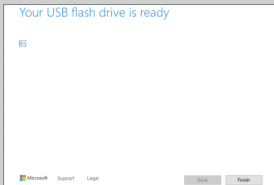
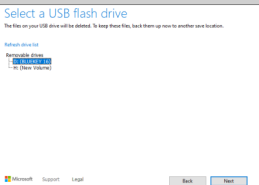
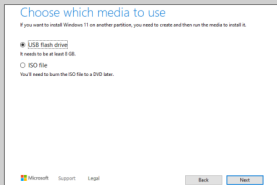
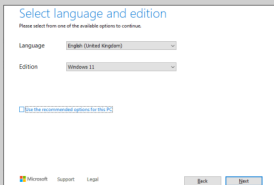
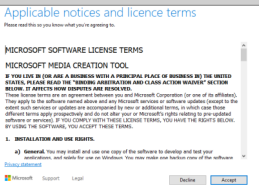
You'll be asked what type of drive to use. Choose "USB flash drive" and click "Next." It will tell you that you need at least 8GB, but your Bluekey has 16GB, so you're good to go.

Choose Bluekey from the List:

You'll see a list of drives. Pick your Bluekey. Be careful to pick the right one because it will delete everything on it. Then click "Next." The tool will start putting the Windows files on your Bluekey. This might take a while.

All Done:

When it's done, you'll see a message saying your USB drive is ready. Click "Finish." Now you can unplug your Bluekey. It's ready to put Windows back on a computer you've wiped with Redkey.



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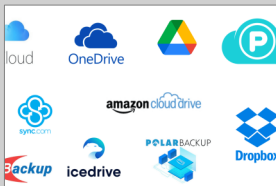
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Greenkey: Protect Your Important Files



Backing Up with Greenkey:

Before using Redkey to clear your computer, always secure your essential files. Greenkey can help with that. If you've got heaps of data or seek enhanced protection, consider alternatives like cloud storage. Double-check to ensure all vital data is safely stored.

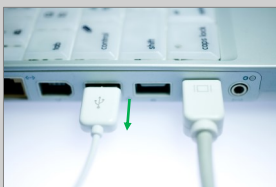


Redkey: Prepare for Data Erasure



Disconnecting Storage for Safety:

When using Redkey, it allows you to choose which disks to wipe. However, for added safety, it's a good idea to physically disconnect any external devices you want to preserve, like USB drives, SD cards, and other plug-in storage. By doing this, you reduce the risk of accidentally erasing important data. Note that this mainly refers to external devices, as unplugging internal drives might not be practical or even possible.



Don't Knock the Redkey:

Ensure the Redkey remains plugged in during the entire data wiping process. If it's removed, even momentarily, it could interrupt the operation. Should any issues occur, wait for the current task to conclude before initiating again. In the event of a power interruption, consult the troubleshooting section at the end of this guide.

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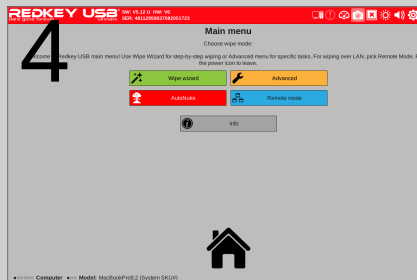
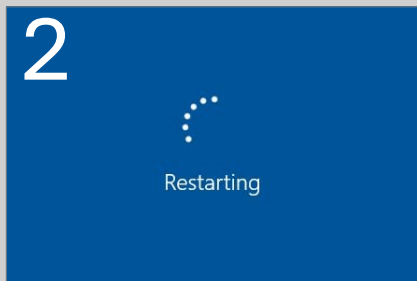
Redkey: PC Boot Sequence A



Initial Attempt with Sequence A: While most computers may not automatically boot from the Redkey USB using Sequence A, it's worth trying first. If this attempt fails, which is often the case, please move on to Sequence B or C. Sequence B is generally the most reliable option.

Steps:

1. Insert the Redkey USB into an available USB port.
2. Reboot the target computer.
3. Check if Redkey auto-launches.
4. If it does, you will eventually be directed to the software's main menu.



Keep in Mind: Before you begin the wiping process on your computer, ensure your Redkey is activated. If it isn't, visit our website to set it up. And if you're working with a laptop, plug it in to avoid battery drain that could disrupt the wipe.

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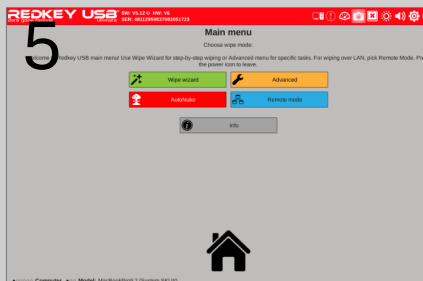
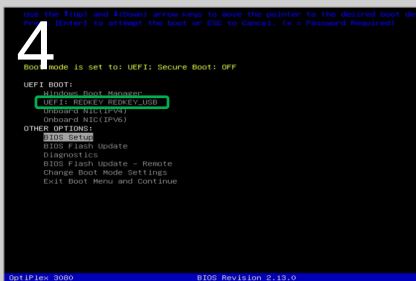
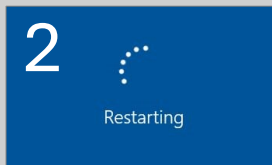
Redkey: PC Boot Sequence B



Most Effective Option: Sequence B is generally the most effective way to initiate the Redkey software. If this method fails, please refer to Sequence C on the next page.

Steps:

1. Insert the Redkey USB into an available USB port.
2. Reboot the target computer.
3. Look for a 'Boot Menu' prompt and press the corresponding key, usually F12.
4. Select 'Redkey,' 'USB,' or 'Removable Device' from the list that appears.
5. Wait for Redkey to launch, and you'll be taken to the main menu.



Problem Solver: If Redkey kicks off but doesn't detect a disk, consider tweaking your computer's BIOS settings to AHCI mode. This is common with newer Dell or HP computers equipped with a specific disk called NVMe. For detailed guidance, refer to the technical manual in the support area of our website or get in touch with us.

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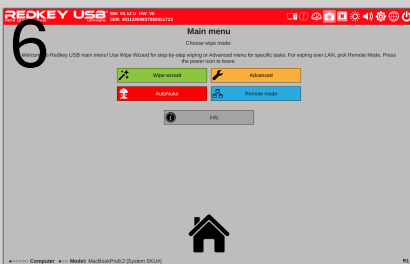
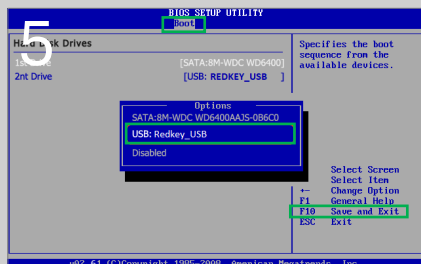
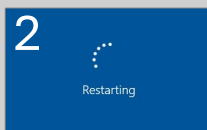
Redkey: PC Boot Sequence C



Suitable for Older PCs: Process C tends to work well with older computers that lack a specific boot menu. If you're unfamiliar with BIOS settings, tread cautiously. Each computer has its own set of configurations, and changing them without proper knowledge might lead to issues. If you're uncertain, consider doing a bit of online research or seeking advice from an expert. Some computers even allow boot option selections from the BIOS settings themselves.

Steps:

1. Plug the Redkey USB into an available USB port.
2. Reboot the target computer.
3. During the startup process, look for a prompt indicating 'System Setup,' 'BIOS,' or 'Settings' and press the specified key, commonly Del or F2.
4. Navigate to the 'Boot' tab or a similar section, which might also be referred to as 'HDD Order Priority.'
5. Adjust the boot order to prioritise 'Redkey USB' or 'USB Storage Device.' The naming conventions can vary, so read the options carefully.
6. Save the changes and exit, usually by hitting F10. Keep the Redkey inserted while the computer restarts, and await the software's main menu.



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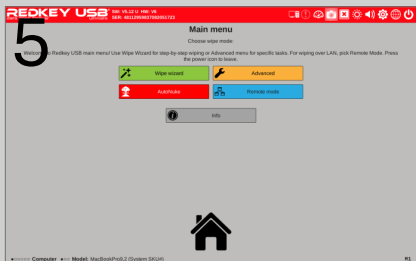
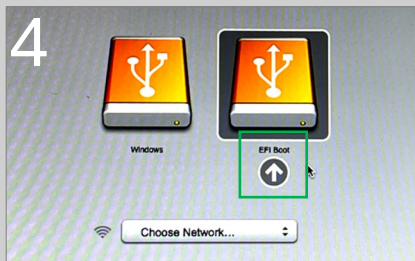
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Redkey: Mac Boot Sequence



Steps for Intel-Based Macs:

1. Insert the Redkey USB into an available USB port.
2. Reboot the target computer.
3. Immediately upon hearing the startup chime, press and hold the 'Option' key.
4. Release the 'Option' key when the Startup Manager menu appears on the screen.
5. Select the "EFI Boot" option from the menu.
6. Wait for Redkey to launch. You will be presented with the software's main menu.



Compatibility Note: Currently, Redkey is compatible with the majority of Apple Macs running on Intel chips. However, it doesn't support Macs powered by Apple's proprietary chips, such as the older models from before 2006 with Power-PC, or the recent ones post -2020 with M1 or M2 chips. We're working on extending compatibility to these Macs and aim to roll out this feature in upcoming updates.

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Main Menu: Redkey Software Interface



After you boot up your computer with the Redkey USB, you'll see the main menu. Here you can pick how you want to wipe your disk.

Main Menu Choices:

Wipe Wizard: Great for new users. It guides you through picking which disks to wipe and is easy to use.

Advanced Menu: This one's for those who know what they're doing. You can pick different ways to wipe the disk and choose which disks get wiped.

AutoNuke: This one wipes all disks it finds. Be really careful with this one.

Remote Mode: This lets you start wiping disks over a Local Area Network (LAN) and pick which disks or systems you want to wipe.

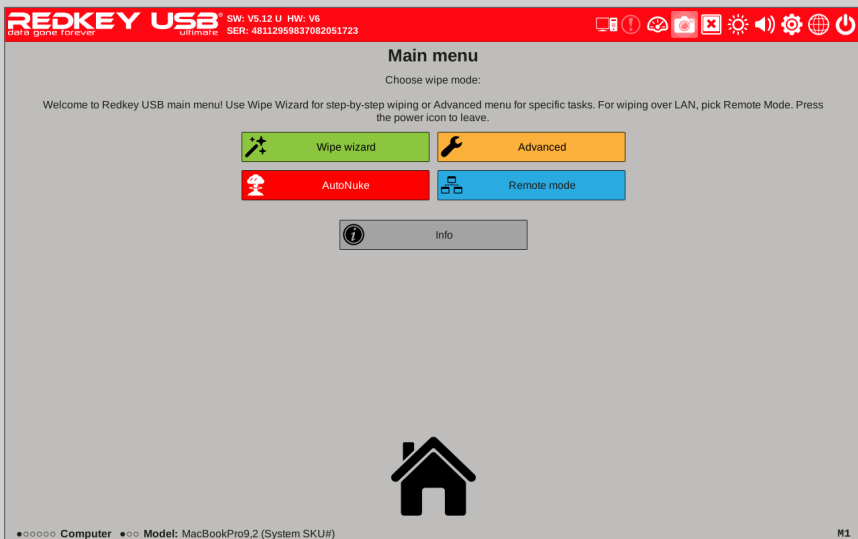
Info: This is where you can see details about the system and your Redkey license.

Sound Tips:

If you want a better experience, turn on the sound.

Start Button:

Unlike older versions, Redkey now only starts wiping when you say so. This gives you more control.



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Top Bar Icons



The top bar of the interface shows various icons, some of which you can interact with, while others are just there to show you something specific. These icons can change depending on what options you choose. They make it easier for you to adjust basic settings on the go.

PC Icon: Denotes that Redkey is currently active on the local system.

Gauge: Displays current CPU and RAM usage.

Camera: Enables secure screen captures, saved directly to a dedicated folder on your key.

Picture: Allows you to toggle the screensaver on or off.

Sun: Switches the interface between light and dark mode.

Speaker: Mutes all system audio.

Cog: Opens the settings and media menu.

Globe: Provides access to the language selection menu.

Power: Grants options for system shutdown or restart.

Wipe Wizard Mode

Wipe Wizard ✨

This mode offers a straightforward method to wipe an entire computer or just one disk. It takes you through each step, ensuring clarity. And if you're using the Ultimate version, you can also wipe cell phones with this feature.



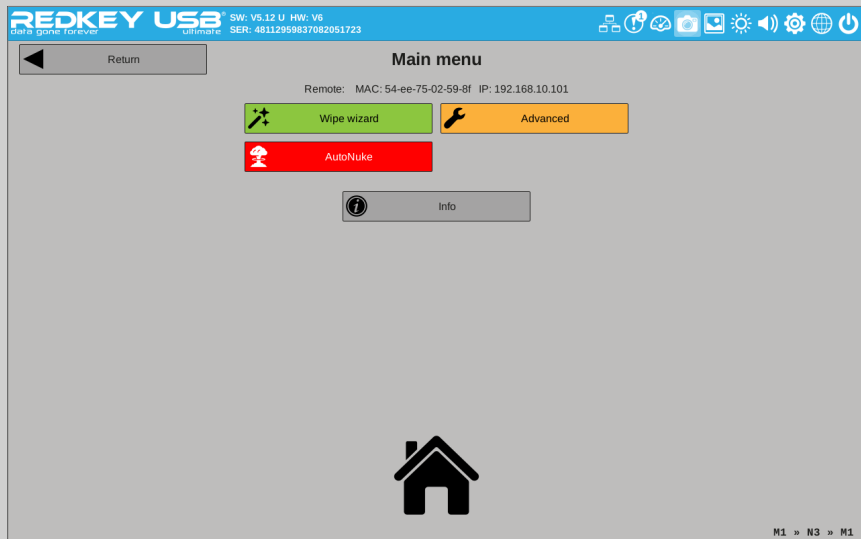
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Remote Mode



This mode is a handy tool allowing you to wipe one computer using another over a network. It's a time-saver and comes with technical advantages. To use this feature, your computer should have a minimum of 4GB RAM. The connection requires specific cables. If directly connecting the computers, standard LAN cables won't suffice. Instead, you'll need a Cat 8 (or above) LAN cable or a crossover Ethernet cable, identifiable by its red ends. However, if you're connecting through a router or switch, standard LAN cables are suitable.



Connection Steps:

1. Turn on Remote Mode on the computer you're using.
2. Boot up the computer you want to wipe, and choose the network NIC/PXE option from its boot menu.
3. Pick the "Redkey NetBoot X86" option when it shows up.
4. Wait a bit. A red screen should pop up on the computer you want to wipe, showing it's ready.
5. On the computer you're using, click on this newly listed remote computer.
6. When you're successfully connected, the top bar on your screen will turn blue. This means you now control the remote computer.

If you need more detailed help, it's good to check out the Redkey user manual.

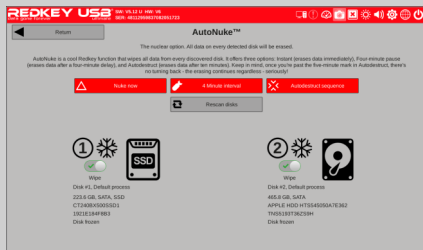
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AutoNuke Mode



This mode is designed for fast and total data wiping. It automatically targets and erases every disk it finds. It's perfect when you want a complete wipe-out or are short on time. And it's not just efficient – it has a fun user interface as well. Unlike modes like Wipe Wizard or Advanced Mode that have safety steps, AutoNuke gets straight to business, wiping everything without asking for much input. So, be sure before you choose this mode!



AutoNuke Options:

(Note: Features may vary based on the software edition and regional settings.)

Nuke Now:



Starts an instant wipe of all detected disks on the local system. Ideal for situations that require immediate action.

4-Minute Interval:



Begins a four-minute countdown before wiping begins. A siren sounds during this period, giving you a chance to cancel before time runs out.

Autodestruct Sequence:



Starts a 12-minute countdown, with a final opportunity to cancel up until the five-minute mark. After that, you can't stop the process. This option comes with flashing lights and recurring audio-visual effects, which may not be suitable for those with photosensitive epilepsy. If you have a history of seizures or epilepsy, consult a medical professional before using this feature.

Be cautious when selecting AutoNuke mode. Make sure you understand the full impact and reach of the data erasure before proceeding.

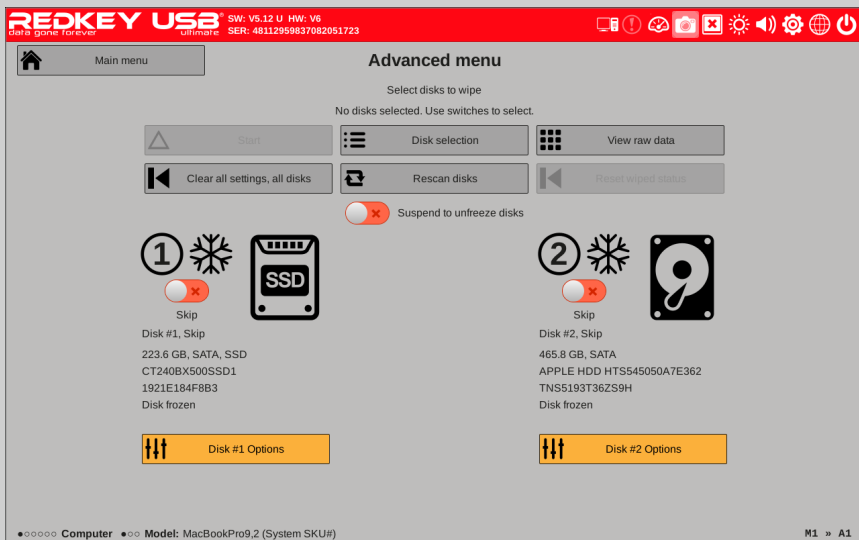
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Advanced Menu



Dive into the details with the Advanced Menu. Here, you can customise how each disk is wiped. Beside every disk, there's a button you can press to tweak the settings. Got more than three disks? Just scroll to see everything. This menu offers a variety of wiping methods, giving you the flexibility to tailor the process to your preferences.



Advanced Menu Key Features:

Pick Disk Switches: Choose the disks you want to erase. Handy if you have more than one disk but don't want to wipe them all.

View Raw Data: Lets you look at the disk's raw data so you know what you're erasing.

Frozen or Not: Redkey shows you if a disk is 'frozen' and usually takes care of it for you. A snowflake means it's frozen; wavy lines mean it's thawed & ready to wipe.

Disk Options: Pick from different ways to erase your data, or make your own.

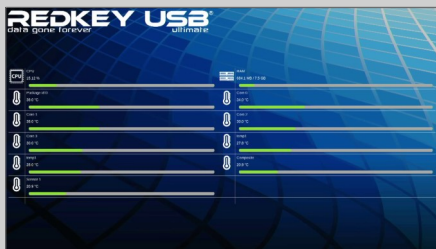
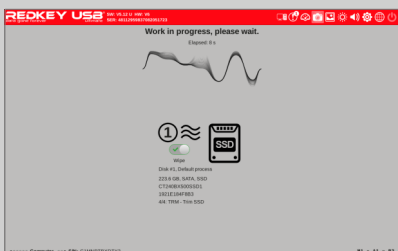
If you're thinking about using the more tricky settings, like making your own way to erase data, it's a good idea to check the dedicated Redkey user manual first.

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Data Wipe in Progress

Once the data wiping begins, an 'In Progress' screen will appear, providing insights into the ongoing operation. This screen displays key details such as the specific disk being wiped, the method used, the disk's capacity, and its current stage in the process.



Duration of the Wipe:

The duration required to wipe a disk varies depending on several factors. These include the type of disk, its connection method, its capacity, the wiping method selected, and the specifications of the computer in use. Notably, with SSDs, the estimated time remaining might not always be accurate.

Screensaver and Tunes:

If the Redkey is left idle for a while, its built-in screensaver and background music will activate. Owners of the Professional or Ultimate version can personalise their experience by replacing these with their own choices. To do so, explore the 'custom_images' and 'custom_music' directories on the Redkey. For additional adjustments, such as changing the screensaver, simply click on the cog icon located at the screen's top.

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After Wipe: Process Complete Screen



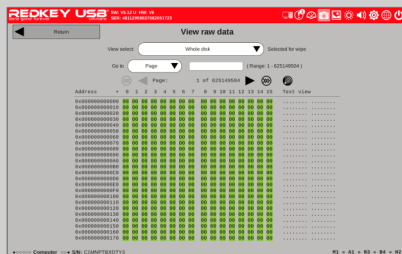
When you get to the 'Process Complete' screen, you've got a few choices for what to do next.

Look at the Report:

Hit this button if you want to look closer at how the wipe went or to save a report about it. But remember, you can only save the report if the wipe worked as planned.

Check Your Drive:

This lets you see how your drive looks after the wipe. If you see green blocks, that means it worked.



What's Next:

From here, go back to the main menu to wipe another drive or shut down the computer if you're done.

Powering Off:

Before you turn off the computer, don't pull out the Redkey. Doing that too soon could corrupt the files or reports on the key. Wait until the power is completely off.

Well Done:

Your computer is now empty and ready to be sold or thrown away safely. If you're planning to put a new operating system on it, you can use your Bluekey to Boot the computer just like you did with the Redkey. Once that's done, use your Greenkey to put back any files you saved before.

Troubleshooting and FAQs

Troubleshooting:

Boot Problems on Old Computers: If you have an older computer that doesn't show a boot menu, you might need to go into the BIOS to change the boot order. Usually, you can get there by hitting 'Del' when the computer starts up.

Screen Issues: If Redkey isn't working right in graphics mode, try swapping out your monitor, cable, or any adapters you're using. You can also use the Text User Interface (TUI) or remote mode as a workaround.

Disk Not Showing Up: If you're using a newer computer with NVME/M.2 drives and they aren't showing up, check your BIOS/UEFI settings. You might need to toggle AHCI/RAID modes and then change them back after the wipe.

Black Screen After Suspend: If you get a black screen because of Linux limitations, you can either restart and skip the suspend step in the advanced menu or just use AutoNuke. Other options include TUI, remote mode, and voice guidance.

Algorithm Problems: If you get a ZER/NFR error, it means your hardware doesn't support the algorithm you picked. You can change it in the Advanced menu or look at the technical (user manual) for help.

Can't Save Report: If you can't save a Data Wipe Report, go to the 'Process Complete' screen to look for an error code. Adjust your settings based on that. If you still have issues, check the manual or get in touch with support.

Random Software Issues: If you run into other unexpected errors, the Redkey files might be corrupted. Try reformatting the key on a Windows computer and then reinstalling the Redkey software.

Power Cut: If the power goes out and you get a disk password error, just hit 'Enter' without entering a password and restart the wipe. If that doesn't work, use the default password 'dw'.

FAQs:

Custom Media: If you have a Professional or Ultimate key, you can upload your own screensavers and music. Look in your Redkey custom_ folders for guidelines.

Report Logo: On Professional and higher editions, you can add your own logo to reports using a feature in the updater settings.

Certifications: Redkey is approved by the Asset Disposal and Information Security Alliance and includes a Hex viewer for manual checks.

Mobile Device Options: Redkey can reset or reinstall the operating system on mobile devices, so they work after the wipe.

Wipe Settings: You usually don't need to change the default settings. Redkey will pick the best process for your hardware, but you can choose other standards for extra security, although it might take longer.

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A Message to Our Supporters

Thank you for choosing Redkey for your computer clean-up requirements. If you're looking to sell, donate, or recycle your old computer, our kit provides an easy solution.

Start with Bluekey, assisting in setting up a new operating system. It's compatible with Microsoft's Media Creation tool for Windows.

Then, Greenkey is ideal for backing up essential files like photos and music.

Redkey, the centrepiece of our kit, ensures all your personal data is securely removed from the computer. Opt for a simple wipe using Wipe Wizard, or delve into advanced settings if needed.

Why Redkey? We offer unlimited usage, free lifetime updates, and a robust two-year warranty. Rest assured, our product meets all necessary safety standards.



Gareth Owen
Founder & Director
Redkey USB LTD
United Kingdom



Thanks to your support, we've established ourselves as a reputable name in data wiping. We remain dedicated to addressing your data privacy needs.

With Redkey, you can be confident your old data is securely removed. Thank you for making us your choice in data security!

KICKSTARTER

INDIEGOGO.

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