

Summary of Alternative Technologies for Data Destruction on Tape Media

Tier 1	Overwrite only removes the file name, data remains 100% intact
Tier 2	Physical Destruction via cutting only prevents the data from being retrieved where the tape is spliced.
Tier 3	Chopping is only a soft means of destruction if the particle size is beyond superior recovery tools including MFM microscopes
Tier 4	Degauss with low strength degaussers will only damage the digital signal. Forensic tools including MFM microscopes can be used to remove large amounts of content
Tier 5	Degauss & Disintegrate neutralizes the magnetic signal that represents data. Disintegration results in pieces too small to recover useable data. Combination of these two processes completely eliminates the possibility of forensic recovery with any known technology.

Tier 1 Overwrite

- Only removes file name,
Data still 100% intact



100% of Data Recoverable

Tier 2 Physical Destruction

- Cut Tape - Large amount
of data remains



95% of Data Recoverable

Tier 3 Chopping

- Chopping a tape
- Data is still recoverable



25-75% of Data Recoverable*

Tier 4 Degauss

- Proposed for Classified
Secret or Corporate
Sensitive Information-
- Degauss NSA
Evaluated Equipment



25-50% of Data Recoverable**

Tier 5 Degauss & Disintegrate

- (Proposed for Classified
Top Secret or Corporate
Sensitive Data)
- Degauss NSA Evaluated
Equipment
- Disassemble and Recycle
Components



0% of Data Recoverable

* Depends on particle size

** Depends on field strength of magnets