

NAME

shred — zero and unlink files

SYNOPSIS

```
shred [-fvzx] [-s size] [-n iterations] [-u | --remove[=how]]
      [--random-source=path] file...
```

DESCRIPTION

Writes NUL bytes until end of *files* (standard output stream if "-"), then removes them if **-u** is specified.

Don't use this.

If you think you need this: don't. Secure-TRIM flash media, single-pass **dd if=/dev/zero** over magnetic media. Or just burn it. You may be tempted to use this on regular files: don't. Just remove them instead of making more copies by overwriting them again.

OPTIONS

-f, --force	Change mode to 0200 (write for owner) if opening <i>file</i> failed with EACCESS.
-u, --remove [= <i>how</i>]	Remove <i>file</i> after writing to it.
-v, --verbose	Log status to the standard error stream.
-s, --size = <i>size</i>	Write <i>size</i> NULs instead of the file length. Same format as stdbuf(1).
-z, --zero	All below ignored.
--random-source = <i>path</i>	
-n, --iterations = <i>count</i>	
-x, --exact	

HISTORY

Originates from the GNU system, where it purports to

Overwrite the specified FILE(s) repeatedly, in order to make it harder for even very expensive hardware probing to recover the data.

This is laughable, of course.