GALIDE

GALIDE / PRACTICAL RESOURCE

NIST SP 800-88

A plain-language overview

WHAT THE GUIDANCE DOES

Media sanitization makes access to target data infeasible for a given level of effort. Revision 2 calls for a repeatable program with policy, assigned roles, verification, and records.

THREE METHODS

01

CLEAR

For digital storage. Uses logical techniques against simple recovery through the normal device interface. Usually leaves the media usable.

02

PURGE

For digital storage. Makes recovery infeasible even with advanced laboratory techniques. May leave the media reusable.

03

DESTROY

For paper and most physical storage. Makes recovery infeasible and leaves the media unusable for storing data.

FROM DECISION TO EVIDENCE

01 **Assess**

Consider sensitivity, media type, who controls it, and its next destination.

02 **Choose the method**

Match a method and technique to the media. Prefer Purge over Clear when possible.

03 **Check and decide**

Verification checks completion. Validation decides if protection is sufficient; repeat or escalate if not.

04 **Keep the record**

Record the asset, method, technique, tool/version, verification and validation results, and responsible people.

MEDIA-SPECIFIC CAUTIONS

SSD and flash storage: ordinary overwriting may miss spare cells. Cryptographic erase: use only when encryption and key handling meet the required conditions.

GALIDE SUMMARY / SOURCE: NIST SP 800-88 REV. 2 (2025)

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