Blank is
attainable

Permanent data erasure is possible—even in a new normal

As the way we work evolves, so must our methods for securely managing data once it's no longer needed.

At the start of the pandemic, businesses worldwide faced a major shift when massive parts of the workforce transitioned to remote work. This change, which many have since adopted permanently, revolutionized how we work – but it also exposed significant security vulnerabilities. Ensuring data protection on employee PCs, laptops, and mobile devices became essential, even as workers operated from home offices spread across various locations.

For many organizations, including a top Australian superannuation fund, the challenge was twofold: secure data on remote devices and efficiently manage data erasure processes without incurring travel and labor costs. This required a robust and adaptable solution.

Blank is attainable even in a remote environment. Using Blancco's data erasure software, the superannuation fund successfully sanitized employee PCs and laptops remotely. They also securely erased targeted, end-of-life data in a data center hundreds of miles away, all while automating these processes to maximize efficiency.

BFSI Organization Ensures Data Protection by Erasing Laptops & LUNs Remotely

Highlights

Using Blancco data erasure solutions, an Australian superannuation fund:

- Erases data from employee laptops and desktops before devices leave home offices

- Erases end-of-life data in active storage in a telecom service provider's data center

- Automates data erasure processes to maximize efficiency

- Proves compliance with data privacy and security regulations with a tamper-proof audit trail

Challenge

Like employees all over the world, the vast majority of the super fund's workers shifted to widely dispersed home offices in the first half of 2020. When devices needed to be replaced, repaired or returned, however, health concerns prevented workers from bringing their computers to an IT office (or having IT come to them) for secure erasure. Likewise, shipping these machines with intact data on them violated good security practice: devices in transit were vulnerable to loss, tampering or theft.

The super fund also operates a private cloud that houses about 800 TB of storage, with the physical infrastructure located at a data center ten hours away from the IT team's headquarters. Yet when data was no longer required for business use, targeted data destruction was needed to comply with data minimization rules and for data security.

Particularly in a time of pandemic lockdowns, the super fund needed remote erasure for both circumstances.

Solution

To protect the confidential information of its investors and follow government regulations, a super fund must provide a high level of data security throughout the data lifecycle, including at data end-of-life. Blancco solutions provide industry-leading assurance of complete and permanent data erasure in support of that requirement. They also provide the means to perform secure remote erasure, removing the need for physical access to the devices that house the data.

With thousands of employee laptops and desktops no longer located at central locations, the super fund's IT team set about implementing a remote erasure process. Using Blancco Preinstall, they created an executable

file containing the erasure software. After pushing the executable out to the client using Microsoft Endpoint Configuration Manager, automated processes carried out the erasure.

Blancco Drive Eraser is Common Criteria Certified by the Australasian Certification Authority. Common Criteria is an internationally recognized standard (ISO 15408) for evaluating information and communications technology security products. This certification gave IT decision makers at the super fund additional peace of mind about choosing Blancco solutions.

To erase data from cloud storage, the team adopted Blancco LUN Eraser. Installing the solution in a virtual machine enabled the team to easily deploy the erasure software over the network and execute it on its 800 TB of storage volumes located at the data center. The solution sanitizes data from active logical unit numbers (LUNs) while leaving the operating system intact, avoiding downtime.

Results

Employee laptops and desktops are erased right in their home offices so they can be shipped back to a central location with no sensitive data on board, whether at device end-of-life or because of requirements for break-fix and repair. IT now also has a way to erase individual LUNs from live cloud storage located hundreds of miles away, without downtime.

For both client machines and cloud storage, these remote approaches reinforce data security and regulatory compliance—with a tamper-proof audit trail—while avoiding the health risks of staff travel and while building operational efficiencies.

In both cases, the super fund easily deployed Blancco solutions with minimal engineering effort. These solutions also overcame all limitations of distance, giving the fund's IT staff efficient control over data erasure processes. And they provided data security and compliance teams with digitally signed certificates of completed erasure, all stored in a central location.

The result?

Peace of mind for management, as well as assurance for hundreds of thousands of stakeholders that protecting sensitive data is a high priority for one of Australia's largest super funds.

Blank is Attainable - Even at a Distance

The move to remote work likely won't be the last massive paradigm shift in the workforce. Solutions for erasing data need to keep up with these transitions.

For the superannuation fund, a solution that could remotely and completely erase data when it was no longer needed was critical. As they learned by working with us, **Blank is attainable** from anywhere with the right tools.

Ensuring Complete Data Sanitization in a Distributed Workforce

At Blancco, our solutions adapt to your workforce changes. Our comprehensive data erasure tools sanitize data remotely and completely, reducing breach risks and ensuring compliance with privacy regulations.

By automating these processes, you improve efficiency, free up IT resources, and cut costs.

Secure sensitive information across all devices with Blancco, maintaining the highest standards of data security.

Request your free data erasure trial for enterprises today.

Start a free trial