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May 7–9, 2024 The M Resort Las Vegas, NV

Data Destruction in 2024: Five essential updates to ensure complete and secure data destruction

Dale Hurteau, Guardian Data Destruction

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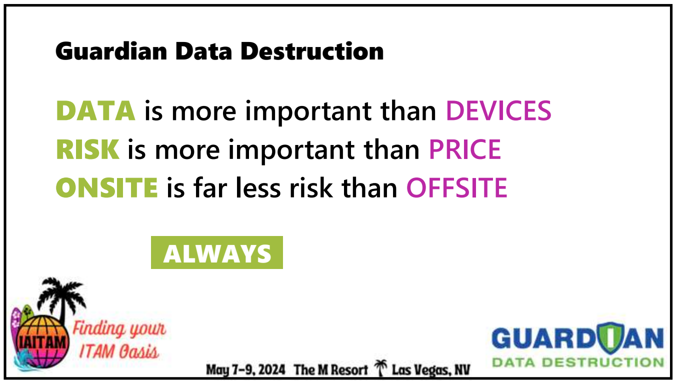

Guardian Data Destruction

DATA is more important than **DEVICES**
RISK is more important than **PRICE**
ONSITE is far less risk than **OFFSITE**

ALWAYS

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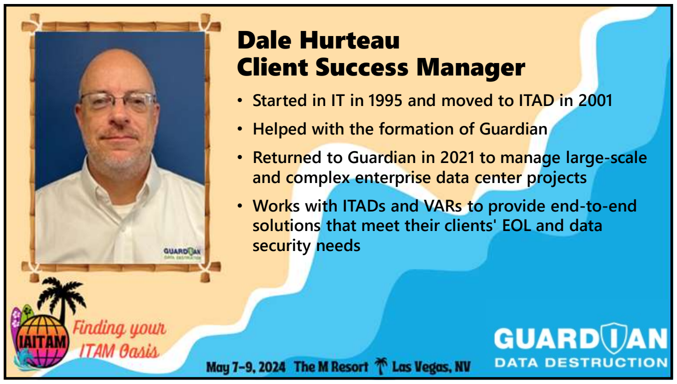

Dale Hurteau
Client Success Manager

- Started in IT in 1995 and moved to ITAD in 2001
- Helped with the formation of Guardian
- Returned to Guardian in 2021 to manage large-scale and complex enterprise data center projects
- Works with ITADs and VARs to provide end-to-end solutions that meet their clients' EOL and data security needs

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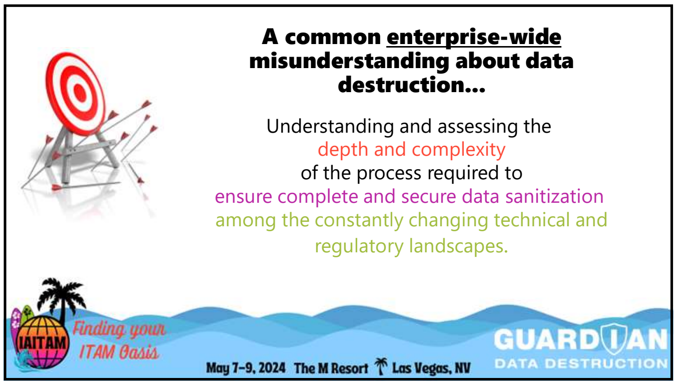

A common enterprise-wide misunderstanding about data destruction…

Understanding and assessing the
depth and complexity
of the process required to
ensure complete and secure data sanitization
among the constantly changing technical and
regulatory landscapes.

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Who is the audience?
(who should be paying attention to data destruction?)

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Finance
Warehouse Procurement Operations
Legal Resellers ESG/CG
CTO IT Asset Managers Compliance IT

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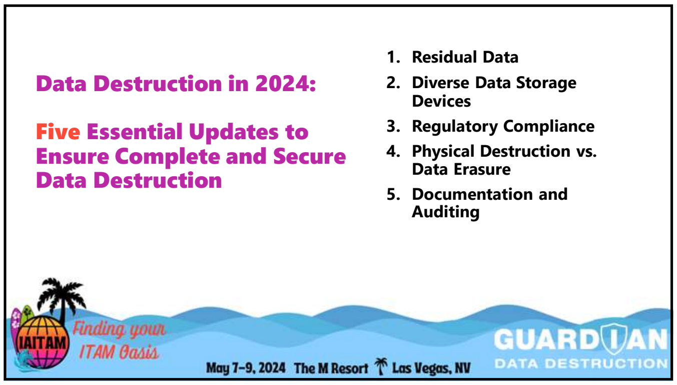
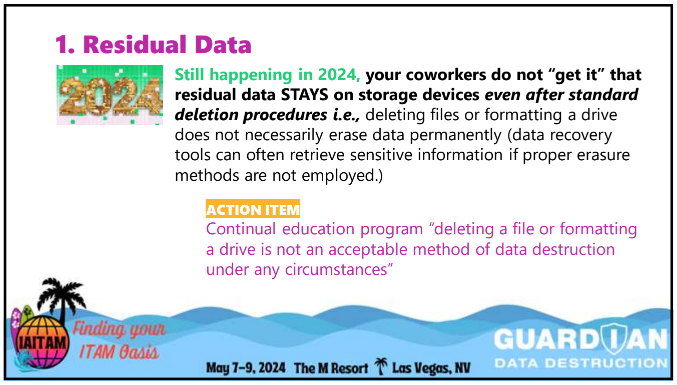


Data Destruction in 2024:

Five Essential Updates to Ensure Complete and Secure Data Destruction

1. **Residual Data**
2. **Diverse Data Storage Devices**
3. **Regulatory Compliance**
4. **Physical Destruction vs. Data Erasure**
5. **Documentation and Auditing**

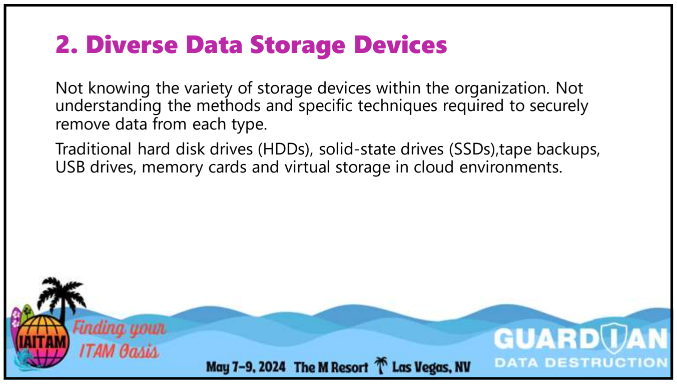


1. Residual Data

Still happening in 2024, **your coworkers do not "get it" that residual data STAYS on storage devices** ***even after standard deletion procedures i.e.,*** deleting files or formatting a drive does not necessarily erase data permanently (data recovery tools can often retrieve sensitive information if proper erasure methods are not employed.)

ACTION ITEM

Continual education program "deleting a file or formatting a drive is not an acceptable method of data destruction under any circumstances"



2. Diverse Data Storage Devices

Not knowing the variety of storage devices within the organization. Not understanding the methods and specific techniques required to securely remove data from each type.

Traditional hard disk drives (HDDs), solid-state drives (SSDs),tape backups, USB drives, memory cards and virtual storage in cloud environments.

2. Diverse Data Storage Devices (more)

Data center equipment including network switches, firewalls, routers and network integrated remote controllers (e.g., Dell's iDRACK and HPE's iLO). Secure data removal is typically by factory reset.

ACTION ITEMS

- Develop a program that includes a thorough review hardware for hidden, not-documented, add-on, integrated and/or internal data storage.
- Work with procurement to record all data storage at point of entry
- Redefine data storage to include anything that holds IP a or unique info specific to your organization, facility or network.

This Photo by Unknown Author

3. Regulatory Compliance & Industry Standards

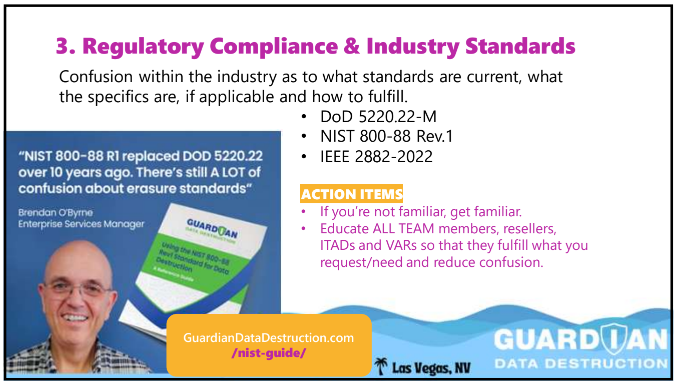
Not fully understanding the regulatory requirements surrounding data destruction, including industry-specific standards such as GDPR, HIPAA or PCI DSS. Even the SEC is watching and enforcing financial regulations.

Failure to comply with these regulations can lead to severe penalties and legal consequences for mishandling sensitive data during disposition and lack of transparency if there is a documented incident.

- Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)
- Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH)
- Identity Theft & Assumption Deterrence Act
- FDA Security Regulations (21 CFR part 11)
- Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act (FACTA)
- Sarbanes-Oxley Act
- Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act
- Bank Secrecy Act
- Patriot Act
- US Safe Harbor Provisions
- PCI Data Security Standard
- Regional, state and local regulations
- GDPR

ACTION ITEM

Examine your organization to see if your business has changed and now must adhere to additional or different data sanitization regulations.



3. Regulatory Compliance & Industry Standards

Confusion within the industry as to what standards are current, what the specifics are, if applicable and how to fulfill.

- DoD 5220.22-M
- NIST 800-88 Rev.1
- IEEE 2882-2022

> “NIST 800-88 R1 replaced DOD 5220.22 over 10 years ago. There’s still A LOT of confusion about erasure standards”
>
> Brendan O’Byrne
> Enterprise Services Manager

GUARDIAN DATA DESTRUCTION
Using the NIST 800-88 Rev1 Standard for Data Destruction
A Reference Guide

GuardianDataDestruction.com
/nist-guide/

ACTION ITEMS

- If you’re not familiar, get familiar.
- Educate ALL TEAM members, resellers, ITADs and VARs so that they fulfill what you request/need and reduce confusion.

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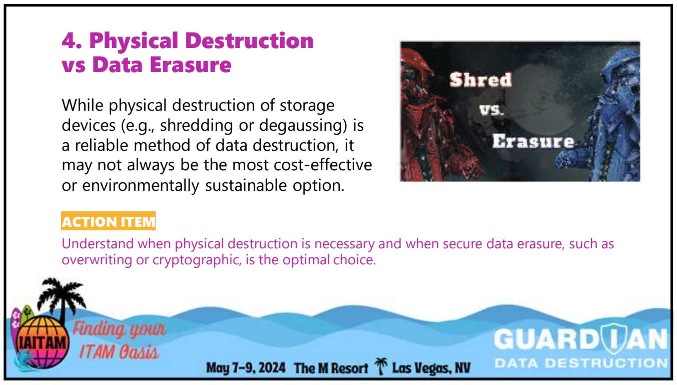

4. Physical Destruction vs Data Erasure

While physical destruction of storage devices (e.g., shredding or degaussing) is a reliable method of data destruction, it may not always be the most cost-effective or environmentally sustainable option.

Shred
vs.
Erasure

ACTION ITEM

Understand when physical destruction is necessary and when secure data erasure, such as overwriting or cryptographic, is the optimal choice.

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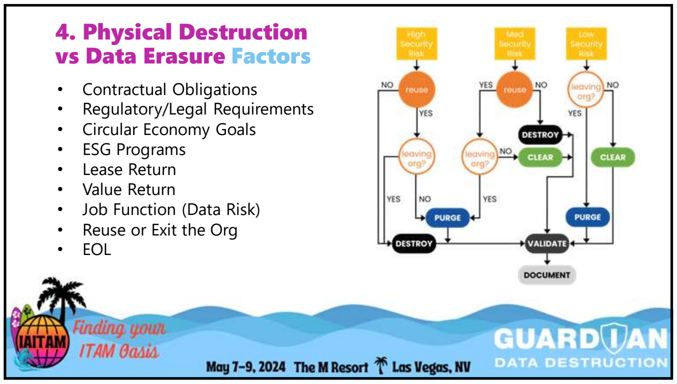

4. Physical Destruction vs Data Erasure Factors

- Contractual Obligations
- Regulatory/Legal Requirements
- Circular Economy Goals
- ESG Programs
- Lease Return
- Value Return
- Job Function (Data Risk)
- Reuse or Exit the Org
- EOL

High Security Risk
Med Security Risk
Low Security Risk
NO
reuse
YES
YES
reuse
NO
leaving org?
NO
YES
DESTROY
leaving org?
leaving org?
NO
CLEAR
CLEAR
YES
NO
YES
PURGE
PURGE
DESTROY
VALIDATE
DOCUMENT

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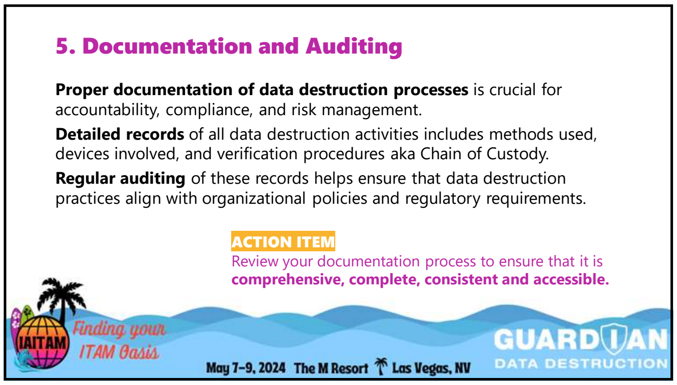

5. Documentation and Auditing

Proper documentation of data destruction processes is crucial for accountability, compliance, and risk management.

Detailed records of all data destruction activities includes methods used, devices involved, and verification procedures aka Chain of Custody.

Regular auditing of these records helps ensure that data destruction practices align with organizational policies and regulatory requirements.

ACTION ITEM
Review your documentation process to ensure that it is **comprehensive, complete, consistent and accessible.**

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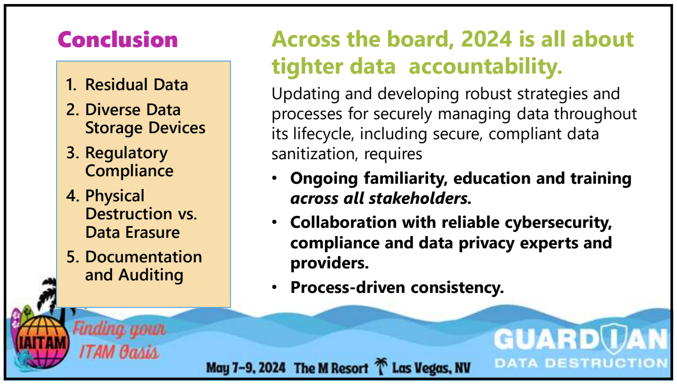

Conclusion

1. Residual Data
2. Diverse Data Storage Devices
3. Regulatory Compliance
4. Physical Destruction vs. Data Erasure
5. Documentation and Auditing

Across the board, 2024 is all about tighter data accountability.

Updating and developing robust strategies and processes for securely managing data throughout its lifecycle, including secure, compliant data sanitization, requires

- **Ongoing familiarity, education and training *across all stakeholders.***
- **Collaboration with reliable cybersecurity, compliance and data privacy experts and providers.**
- **Process-driven consistency.**

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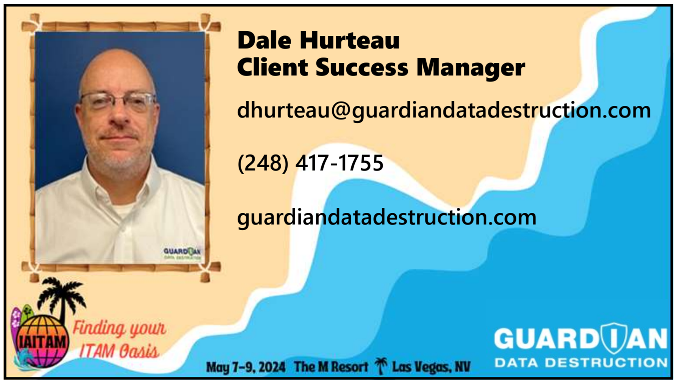

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