

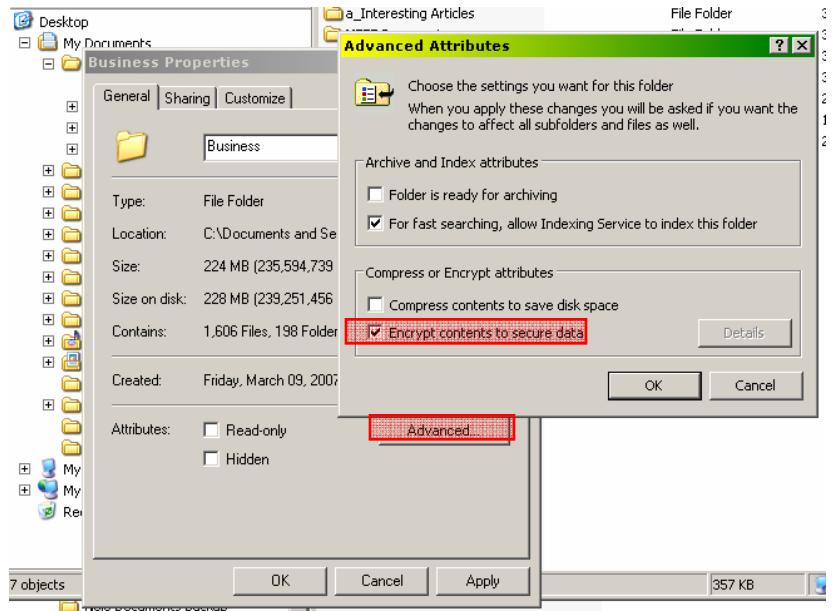


April 22 is Earth Day. Not only should we conserve natural resources, we also need to dispose of our computer gears properly. If you have purchased or thinking about purchasing a new PC, What would you do with the old?

Well, you can give them away, recycle them with your new computer's, or you can use them for non-essential tasks.

If you are giving your computer away, make sure you erase all your personal data first. Deleting the files and emptying the Recycle Bin is not enough. A determined data thief can bring your data back to life easily.

If you use Windows XP, you can use the build-in Data Encryption option. By encrypting, then deleting the files, no one can read your data. With identity theft on the rise, this is a small step to take to help protect your self. [Read more about safe disposal of your old computer equipment.](#)



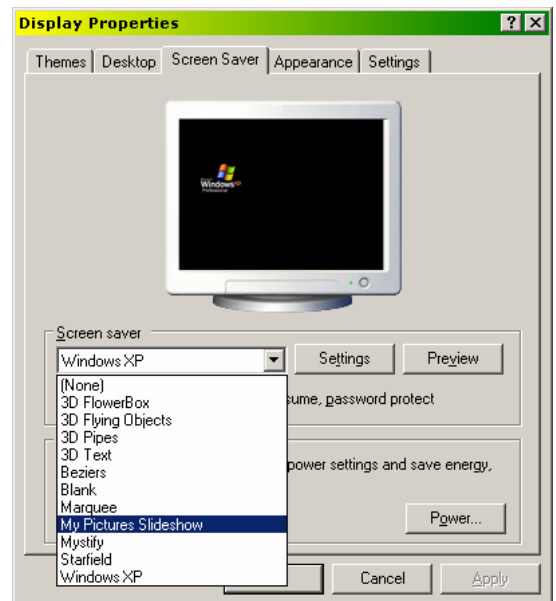
<http://tech.msn.com/security/article.aspx?cp-documentid=2167675>

If you are looking to buy a new computer, most companies have recycling programs. Most of these programs are similar, as an example; check out [Apple's web site](http://www.apple.com/environment/recycling/). Some States, such as [Virginia](http://www.deq.virginia.gov/ecycling/collections.html) and [Wisconsin](http://www.wastecapwi.org/computerrecyclers.htm) have Government sponsored recycling programs and events. These programs are mostly concerned with the old CRT type monitors (TVs too). You can do a Google search or try [Earth911](http://www.earth911.org/usa/master.asp) to find local e-Recycler.

If you are disposing of your computer, make sure you encrypt then delete your personal data on the hard drive.

You can find other uses for your older computers. Laptop's small size and crisp LCD screen is perfect for displaying digital pictures. Use the screen saver to display all your pictures!

[Here are some other ideas, some are more "geeky" than others.....](#)





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I use my old laptop as a print server so I can print wirelessly to my 12 year old HP LaserJet.  
Next Month, we will discuss how to speed up your Windows XP PCs.