

Operations Guide for Destroy Observer Version 3.0

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Preparing Destroy Observer

The Destroy Observer operates in the MS-DOS operating system, as MS Windows does not allow direct access to disk's contents. For this reason, Destroy Observer cannot be run from Windows and instead must be copied onto an MS-DOS Boot Disk.

Formatting an MS-DOS Boot Disk

- This process requires one floppy disk, and will permanently erase any data already on that floppy disk.
- Insert the floppy disk into your computer.
- Go to 'My Computer' on the Desktop
- Right-click '3 ½ Floppy' and select 'Format',
- Tick 'Create an MS-DOS startup disk' and click 'Start'.
- When the process concludes, copy dob.exe to the floppy disk.

Using Destroy Observer

Destroy Observer (dob.exe) is a small tool that will allow you to view any sector on any IDE or SCSI hard disk drive, or any floppy drive connected to your computer.

To begin using Destroy Observer, put the floppy disk you prepared above into your computer, and restart your computer. When the '`A:\>`' prompt appears, type `dob` then press Enter.

Initially when the program executes, you are presented with a screen that shows you a list of drives that the Destroy Observer was able to discover, which shows each drive's sector count as well as its capacity in megabytes. Also shown for IDE drives, is the drive's model number and serial number. Select the drive you wish to view with the arrow keys, then press Enter.

The next screen that appears will show the raw contents of the selected drive, starting from sector 0. Depending on which display mode is selected, a portion of a sector or multiple sectors could be displayed on the screen. Sector boundaries are visually marked by yellow text in the left-hand margin. At this point, you're viewing the disk's contents.

While viewing the disk's contents:

- Pressing the up/down arrow keys will allow you to scroll line by line.
- Alternatively, you can use the Page-Up and Page-Down keys to jump backwards or forwards by one whole sector (512 bytes).
- Holding the Control state key while pressing Page-Up or Page-Down will jump to the previous or next sector boundary.

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- Pressing Escape will quit Destroy Observer.

- Pressing F1 will display a help screen listing the various function keys available and their purposes.

- Pressing F2 will allow you to select another drive to view.

- Pressing F3 will toggle the display mode between displaying an ASCII representation of the drive's contents, and displaying a side-by-side ASCII and hexadecimal representation.

- Pressing F4 will allow you to jump to another sector on the drive. You'll be prompted to enter the sector number. The contents of the drive starting from that sector will then be displayed.

- Pressing F5 will allow you to search for up to five words or phrases within the drive's contents. Any occurrence of any search text (i.e. Boolean OR) will be displayed in the search results. To change between search text fields, use the up/down arrow keys or Tab and Shift-Tab. When you're happy with the search text you have entered, press Enter to begin searching and stop after 1000 occurrences have been found, or F10 to begin searching and stop only when all occurrences have been found. While a search is taking place, you can press Escape. The search will be suspended and you'll be shown a list of search results, displaying all found occurrences of the search text you entered. For more information about this screen, see the next section..

- If you have conducted a search and then pressed Escape to hide the search results, pressing F7 will show them again.

- Pressing F8 will allow you to save the contents current sector to disk. The current sector is the sector whose number is displayed at the top of the screen. You'll be prompted for the filename to save the sector's contents to. This should be a filename in the same location you started Destroy Observer from – usually the floppy drive, for example '`a:\sector9.txt`'

While viewing search results:

- Press the up/down arrow keys to view more results. The total number of results as well as which result is currently highlighted are displayed above the list of search results.

- Alternatively press the Page-Up or Page-Down keys to scroll through the search results page by page.

- Press Enter to jump to where the currently-highlighted search result was found.

- Press F6 to resume a suspended search (if, for example, you suspended a search earlier, or you directed Destroy Observer to stop searching after 1000 results were found). If the previous search reached the end of the drive, a message indicating this will appear.

- Press Escape to hide the search results and go back to browsing the drive's contents

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