

Use an iPod, go to Jail ?

(continued)

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Better yet, iPods also remember where data came from. Say you used a computer at work to copy a large, top-secret program to your iPod to take home. Coding within the file would tell investigators not only what machine (MAC address) but also what operating system (though file format also tells them that) and username was used. So if incriminating evidence is found on your iPod, they can connect it to a crime scene.

I suspect the authors (or others) will attempt a similar paper on the flash-based iPod Shuffle and iPod Nano as iPods continue to surface as part of criminal investigations.

Doesn't apply to me

But you and me, we're law-abiding, right? So let's say you just want to discard your old iPod. At present, I'm not aware of any iPod erasing or shredding programs, but it would be a good idea to delete everything you can before letting it go. The above-mentioned ability to read deleted files is limited to special software packages, such as [Guidance Software EnCase](#), so it's unlikely that the average person would be able to recover your deleted personal files with off-the-shelf technology. To be safe, though, I recommend drilling several holes through the "dead" iPod to make sure the drive tells no tales.

What if you lose your iPod? Then you're out of luck. Someone could learn that you have *Achy, Breaky Heart* on your playlist, embarrassing, yes, but someone could also access personal data--or corporate data--which could be more than embarrassing. Here the recommendation is caution: Be careful what information you put on removable media such as an iPod. Remember that deleting data doesn't necessarily completely remove that data.

What's On Your iPod ?

