

USING DISKPROBE FOR DATA RECOVERY

By Mark E. Donaldson

1. Start DiskProbe, and select Drives/Logical Volume.
2. Double-click the volume you want to search, then click the Set Active button for Handle 0 (which will be assigned to the volume in question).
3. Click OK to dismiss the Open Logical Volume dialog box.
4. Select Tools/Search Sectors.
5. Select Exhaustive Search, Ignore Case. Select 0 as the first sector to search, and type the text you want to look for in the "Enter characters to search for" field.
6. Click Search, and wait (the system might appear to be locked up; be patient).
7. If you're lucky, DiskProbe will find the text you're looking for (if not, you might try other volumes), in which case a DiskProbe dialog box will appear, saying "Found match in sector [number], Press Yes to continue search." DO NOT CLICK YES!
8. Click No. You'll see the sector where the match was found. Look to see if the sector contains what you're looking for. If not, start searching again, beginning with the next sector (i.e., if DiskProbe found a match in sector 2000, start searching again at sector 2001).
9. If the sector does contain the text you're looking for, select Drives/Volume Information and note the Sector Size. You'll need this information later.
10. Select Sectors/Read. A Read Sectors dialog box appears. The starting sector will be the one you're in. To determine the number of sectors you need to read, estimate the file size in bytes, and divide by the sector size. For instance, if you think the file is about 10KB and the sector size is 512 bytes, you'll need to read 20 sectors. After you enter the number of sectors, click Read.
11. You can now use the VCR-style controls at the top of the DiskProbe display to browse the data you just read. Make sure the selection covers all the data you want to recover (if you didn't read enough sectors, repeat Step 11, but enter a larger number of sectors).
12. Click File/Save As, and type a pathname for a file to hold the recovered data. You can open the file in Notepad or another text editor. The text might include some garbage characters, which you can delete as necessary. Whether this method works for you depends on how the program you're running stores data (if the program never writes the data to disk, it won't be there to recover) and whether another program uses the disk space before you can get to it.