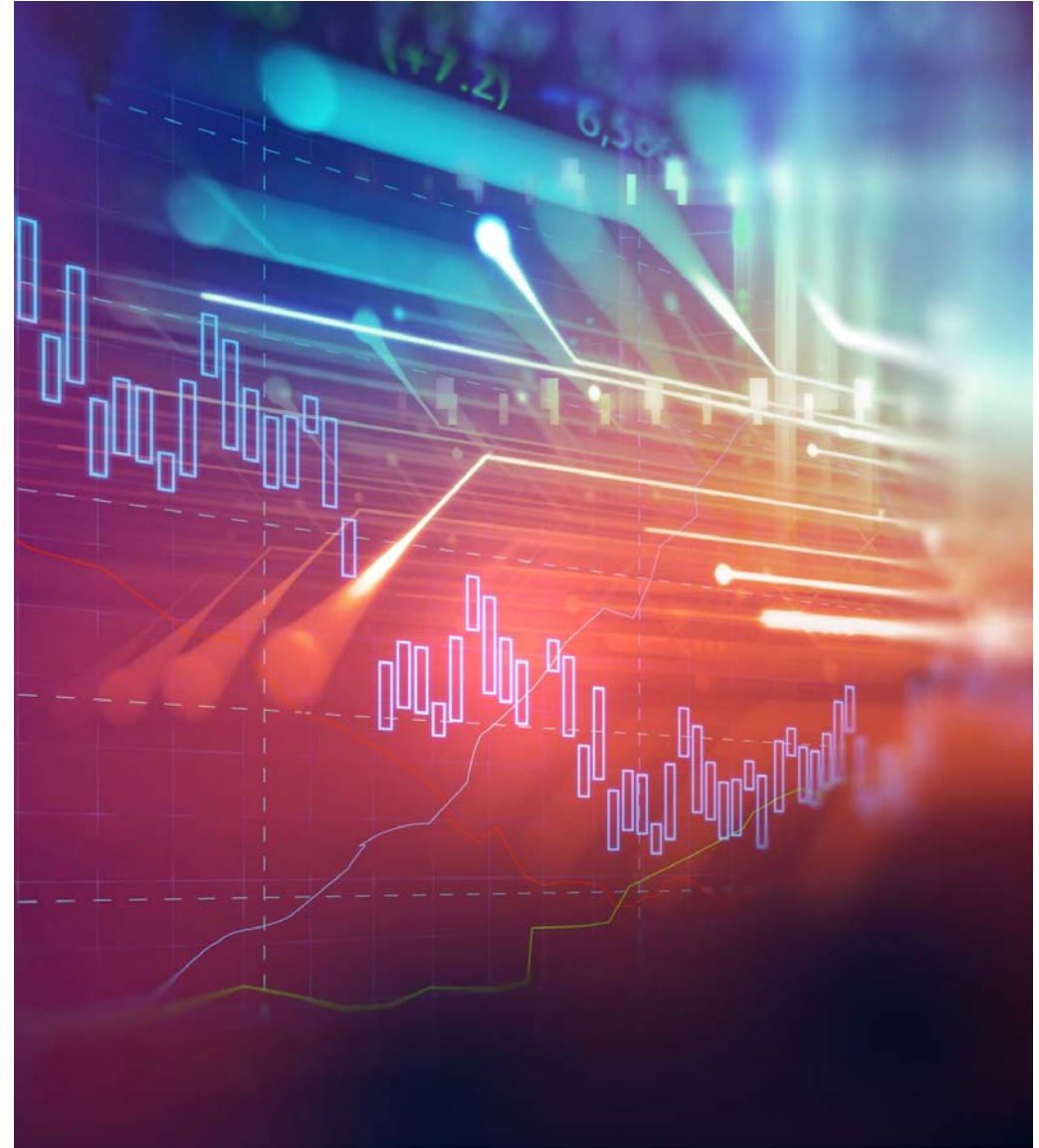


THE TECHNOLOGY  
OF DISPOSAL  
AND  
THE DISPOSAL OF  
TECHNOLOGY



# CONTACT

Daniel Edlen

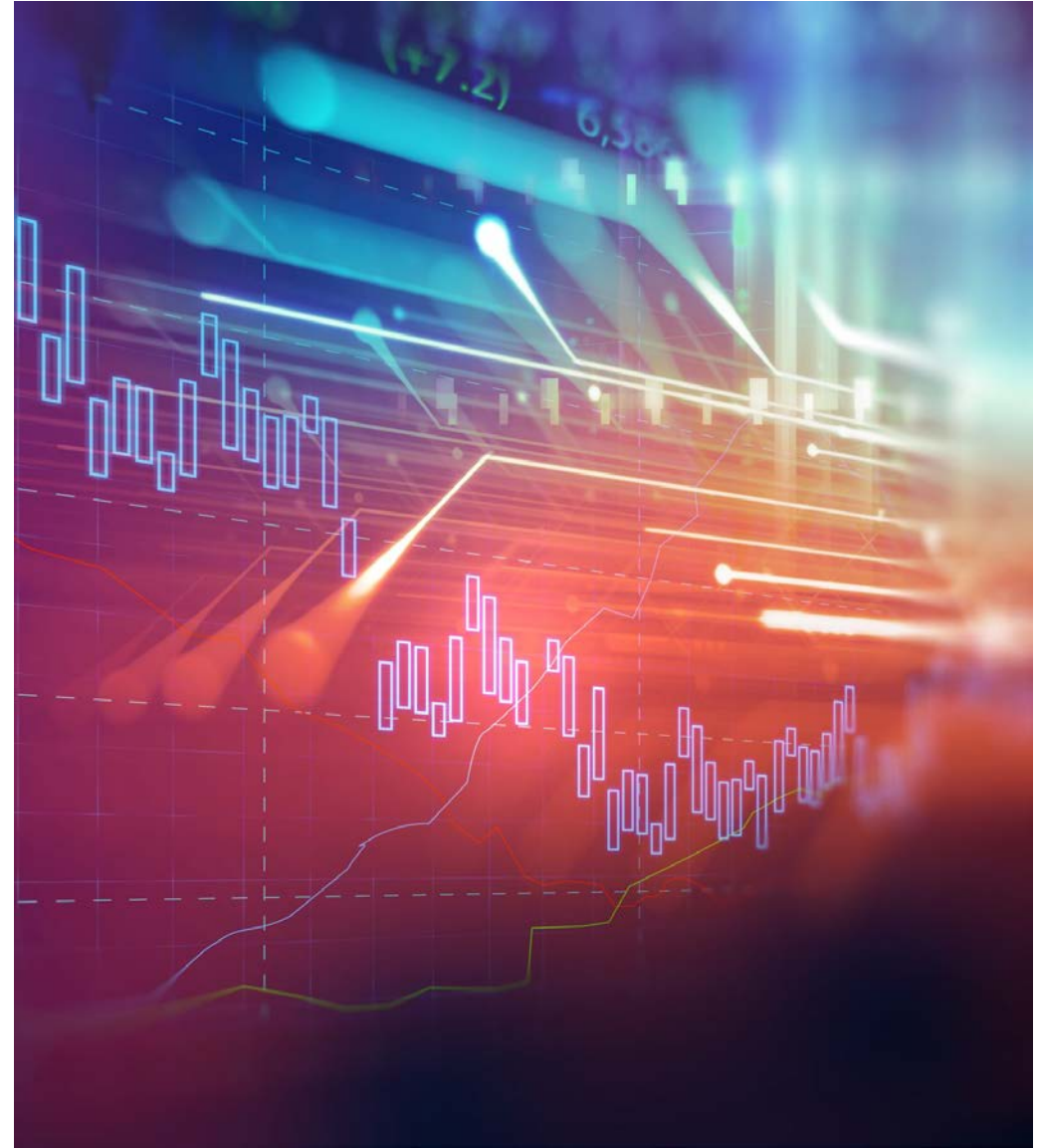
Techwise

Website: [www.techwiseaz.com](http://www.techwiseaz.com)

Email: [help@techwiseaz.com](mailto:help@techwiseaz.com)

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# ONLINE YARDSALES



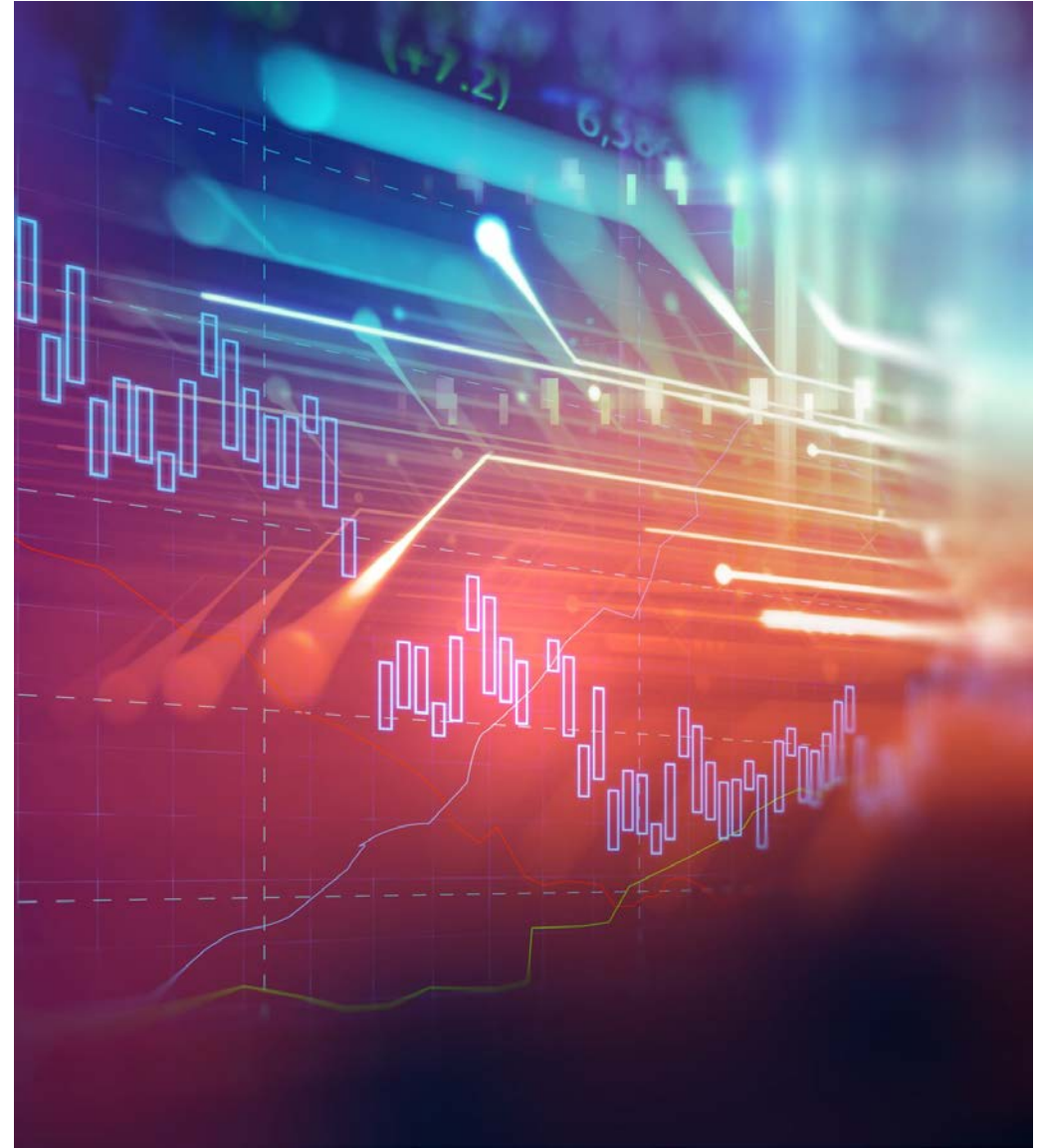
Recently I helped several people who had a lot of stuff they wanted to dispose of, but not just throw away. While the community yard sale is quite successful, you might want to take care of it sooner than later, or you know that you can sell items for more money than you'd get that way. In looking up ways online to sell things, I see 2 general types: those that involve shipping the items and those that transactions are done in person. Both have pros and cons, and have suggested precautions to be safe and successful.

Shipping – eBay, Etsy

In Person – craigslist, OfferUp, Facebook Marketplace

There are also specialty sites and apps like cars.com and Poshmark which are for selling specific types of items. Accounts and listings are tailored to the type of items and general method of transaction.

TO SHIP



## Shipping – eBay, Etsy

So selling online to ship items can be handy because you don't have to meet the buyer which involves coordinating timing and payment details and safety concerns. However, because it's not in person, there are lots of possible transaction scams to be aware of and safeguard against. Also you pay a listing fee for the convenience.

If you're a seller, here are a few ways to identify a fraudulent buyer:

The buyer asks to pay outside of eBay.

The buyer offers much more than the listed price for an item.

A new buyer purchases a high-ticket item or multiples of the same item.

The buyer asks to change their shipping address to a foreign country.

The buyer requests to make payments for additional shipping after the initial transaction.

The buyer includes a long, detailed description of why they want the item (usually for a family member).

The buyer is over eager to complete the sale.

The buyer threatens to leave negative feedback.

From <https://us.norton.com/blog/online-scams/ebay-scams>

Also see <https://www.ebay.com/help/policies/selling-policies/seller-protection-policy?id=4345>

### **How to avoid a damaged product claim:**

**Take lots of pictures of your item and packaging before sending it.** You may be able to prove the difference between the legitimate product and the replica.

**File an insurance claim with the shipping provider.** If you suspect you may be a victim of damaged product fraud, ask the buyer to hold on to the broken item with the packaging until the shipping provider can send an insurance agent to inspect it. Even if you don't actually follow through with the claim, it's likely the scammer will stop asking for a refund for fear of being exposed.

### **How to avoid an overpayment scam:**

**Always wait for payment to go through before shipping an item.** Even if the buyer is pressuring you to ship the item, do your due diligence to ensure the payment you received is legitimate.

**Politely decline any overpayment offers.** There's no good reason anyone would want to overpay for a product, so don't bother entertaining their offer.

**Only accept payment through eBay's website.** This ensures you'll be compensated if you do fall for an overpayment scam.

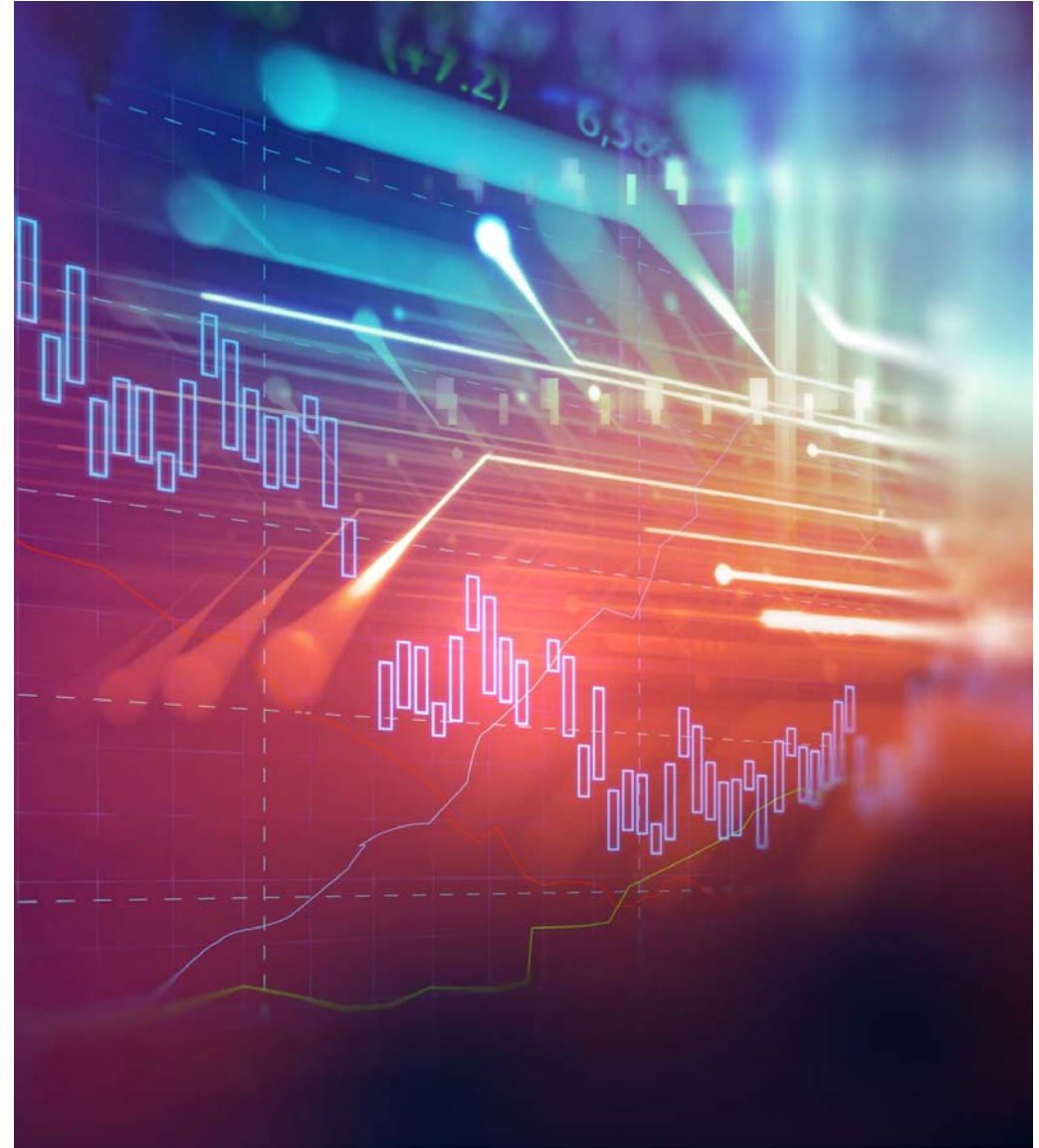
### **How to avoid a changed address scam:**

**Never send an item to any address other than the one provided on the original invoice.** If the buyer claims they won't be able to accept the item, ask them to cancel the transaction and repurchase it under the new address before making payment.

**Double-check the source of the message about the change of address.** If it's from a different eBay ID than that of the original buyer, report the scammer and disregard the request.



OR NOT TO SHIP





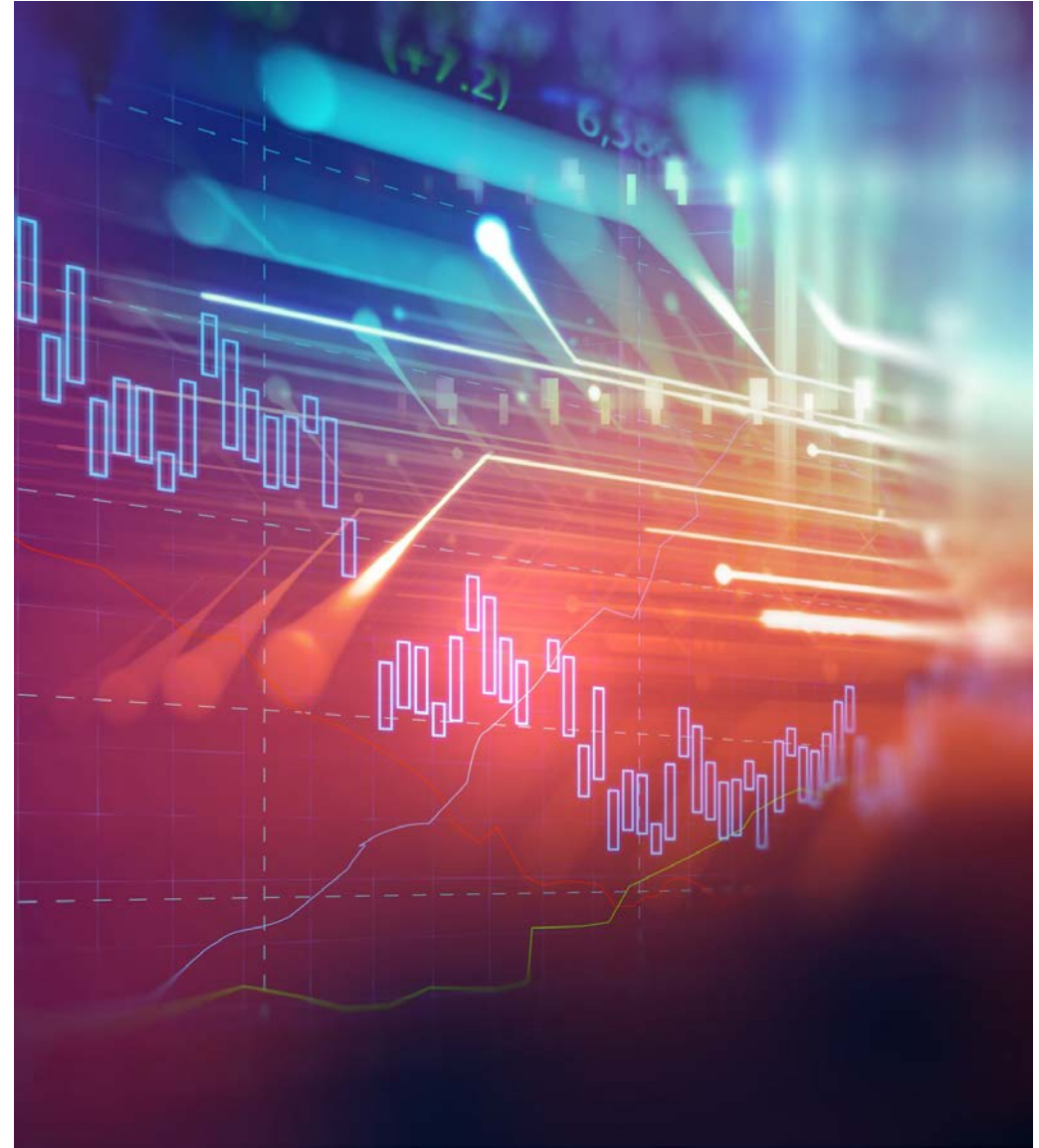
In Person – craigslist, OfferUp, Facebook Marketplace

OfferUp is a good straightforward replacement for yardsales. Their site has a great page of information for safety suggestions and appropriate behavior at <https://about.offerup.com/trust-safety/> with ways the app makes it easier to trust the system and the other party. There's help finding meetup locations, and trusted identity verification along with user profiles and ratings. It's a nice system because it provides a communication buffer between buyers and sellers where the app can facilitate safe and successful transactions. There are limits to the number of free listings for sale you can post, but generally it's 200 items a month. Cash is the preferred method of payment for in person sales.

Personally, we used OfferUp here to sell several large furniture items after my inlaws moved into Sunland Village. We had buyers come to the house after negotiating the price and met them out front with the item, during daytime and with multiple family members or friends present. For items easily transportable, meeting in bank parking lots is an excellent option.

Craigslist and Facebook are similar but are a bit less supportive in facilitating the transactions. Their benefit is possibly a wider user base. There aren't buyer ratings or required verifications and there are regularly run common scams to avoid. Basically I would start with OfferUp and move to Facebook Marketplace if you're in a hurry and don't find a buyer.

CAN I THROW IT  
AWAY?



(Never throw an old computer in a dumpster as it is hazardous waste in our landfills!)

It says this on the Data Doctors website post about what to do before you get rid of an old computer. Yes, there are parts of computers that can be hazardous like the battery and the power supply, so it's a good idea to take them to a company that handles technology disposal. There's a Data Doctors at 3425 E. Baseline Road in Gilbert. Also uBreakiFix at 1545 S Power Rd Suite 109 in Mesa near the Target will take devices.

My general thought about throwing electronics away is that if it has a battery built into the device, don't just chuck it in the trash. The Gilbert waste management webpage about hazardous materials has batteries as the first item they accept. They don't accept other general electronics. So if it's something you plug in to use and it's not rechargeable or for portable use, you can safely throw it away. If you do recharge it or can use it portably, you can remove the battery and then throw it away, or take the whole device somewhere for disposal.

Sometimes people ask me about donating devices to charities. That can be a nice thought. Cell phones can be useful for sure. Honestly though, in my experience, generally if the device is one that you have or will replace with something newer, it's likely not going to be very suitable for donating. I find most people use their technology until it's significantly outdated or requiring repair beyond the cost of something new.

There is a charity I found called Arizona Students Recycling Used Technology (AZ StRUT) at <https://azstrut.org/> with a location on Broadway near Dobson. They would do well with old devices as far as determining usefulness and placement. On their website they also have a data privacy policy that includes a complementary drive-wipe for hard drives.

# WHAT ABOUT DATA?



Often, people ask me what to do about the data on old computers. The Data Doctors post below has several suggested options. It really all depends on your comfort level and what you plan to do with the device.

There is a utility you install to remove indicated personal files that then immediately overwrites the hard drive to thoroughly delete those files, which would be good if you want to keep the operating system running.

There is a utility that will very thoroughly wipe the whole hard drive completely, which would be good if you want to donate the device keeping it functional.

There is the option of physically removing the hard drive to separate it from the device, which would be good if you plan to properly dispose of the hardware and want to keep or destroy the hard drive independently.

Finally there is the offer of a data deletion service at Data Doctors.

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External links about data disposal

<https://www.datadoctors.com/recycle/>

QUESTIONS?

