

Copying and imaging disk drives

Copy image to disk with Disk Destroyer

```
dmesg -w # and plug in your drive; see dev name that was added
lsblk # verify device name
fdisk -l /dev<output disk> # verify device name, product name (Disk model) and size

# WARNING: this will overwrite output (of) disk data
dd if=<input imag file img> of=/dev/<output disk> bs=1M oflag=direct status=progress
```

Backup disk to image file

Uses `dd` for copy and `pv` for progress bar, applies compression with `zstd`.

```
#!/bin/sh -eu
INPUT_DEV=$1

sudo fdisk -l "${INPUT_DEV:?}" 1>&2
BYTES=$(sudo fdisk -l "${INPUT_DEV:?}" | head -n 1 | cut -d' ' -f5)

echo 1>&2
echo "Backup from ${INPUT_DEV:?} (${BYTES:?} bytes)" 1>&2
echo "Continue? [N/y]" 1>&2

read Y
test "$Y" = "y" || exit 0

sudo dd iflag=direct if="${INPUT_DEV:?}" bs=256K \
| pv -pteb --average-rate-window=120 -T --buffer-size 512K -s "${BYTES:?}" \
| zstd -14
```

Make sure to tweak `zstd`'s compression rate (max is 19) if you get CPU bound (100% CPU and no IO wait time) to reduce imaging time.

Use `-L15M` or similar option on `pv` to limit backup rate if source device is misbehaving under high load (e.g. USB drives).

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