

SHREDGen
HELP

Version 1.0
August 2024



What is *SHREDGen* program and how it can be useful?

The *SHREDGen* program is a part of *Secure File System* collection of programs, which contains programs dealing with a secure storage, transport, and disposal of user files. Except for complete *SFS Office Organizer* program, all files in the collection can reside on hard drives and on *USB, memory card* and even on *DVD* disk. That makes them versatile to use, since they do not need *Windows* installation with registry entry and therefore, they can be portable to any *PC* running *Windows*. For example: Users can have they own copies of these programs on *USB* or *memory card*, insert them in the *PC* and run them from there. All programs in the collection can be used as a stand-alone application and all programs adhere to simple basic rules.

They do not:

- Exist as a subscription scheme
- Exist in any '*professional*' or other version
- Force updates to new versions, i.e., they follow the basic rule: '*When it runs, do not update.*'
- Access the Internet
- Collect, store, or send any information
- Include any commercial advertising
- Need *Windows* installation, activation or registration,
- Ever expire
- Require any payments. Most of them are free to download and distribute

What is more, these programs are easy to use, most of them are free to download and run, and in its unchanged code they are free to distribute - from www.dlouhy.info

The program belongs to a family of *eraser* applications and it has only one specific aim: To safely erase, i.e., not just delete, any selected *Windows* compatible files without leaving any trace of them in their original storage.

Now, what is the Difference between erase and delete?

From Wikipedia:

"They sound synonymous but deleting and erasing a file are two different things. When you delete a file, you just reallocate it on the system making it harder to find, i.e., the files remain present in your system but are no more accessible. When you erase a file, it is gone forever.

File eraser software permanently destroys targeted data on active PCs, servers, and virtual machines to prevent data breaches. File eraser securely and safely eliminates files, adheres to international standards, and provides certified reports that comply with legal regulations."

The *SHREDGen* program support the *U.S. Department of Defence DoD 5220.22-M* standard for erasing files. The algorithm using this standard was deployed in my *PCLock* program and was successfully tested by *IT Company AEHIGHTECH* in Mexico. I have successfully tested the *SHREDGen* program before its release, using free program *Recuva* by *PIRIFORM Software Limited*. From a collection of twenty data recovery programs, evaluated by *Lifewire* website, *Recuva* was selected as their "*Favorite Data Recovery*" program.

PLEASE NOTE:

*Once the file is shredded by SHREDGen program, there is no way to recover the content of the file.
Think before proceeding with shredding, please.*

To move the displayed dialog, click with left Mouse button within the dialog frame (not the displayed controls or buttons, thought), hold the button down and drag the dialog into desired position.

*This program is simple to use, so initially just follow your instinct. If everything fails,
read the rest of this document.*

SHREDGen Program

Remove All - Removes **ALL** files from the **Files Pane**, irrespective if they are highlighted or not. Yet, the files are NOT being removed from their data storage.

Remove Selected - Removes highlighted file from the **Files Pane** only. File is NOT removed from its data storage.

Import File - Opens **File Dialog** for selecting a file to be displayed in **Files Pane**.

Selected files: Displays information about this program..

Processing:

SHREDGen

About - Selects drive where the files to be **shredded** are stored.

Reset Directories Pane - Deletes all displayed directories and files from **Directories Pane**, without removing them from their storage.

Help - Displays this **Help** document.

Add Shortcut - Adds shortcut to the **SHREDGen** program on the desktop for easier start.

Exit - Exit buttons for closing the program.

Removed File - File Ready for Shredding

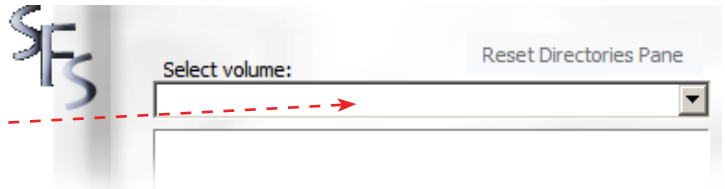
Shred Selected Files - Starts **shredding** selected files.

Info

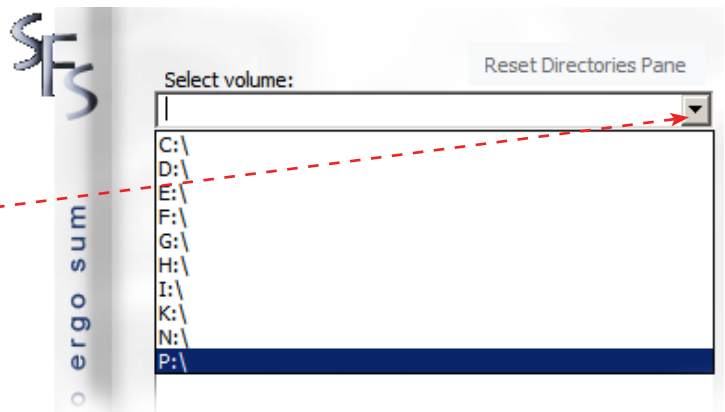
The *SHREDGen* program is easy to use - nevertheless, try it on some test files first, please.

Pure Basics - Using *Directories Pane*

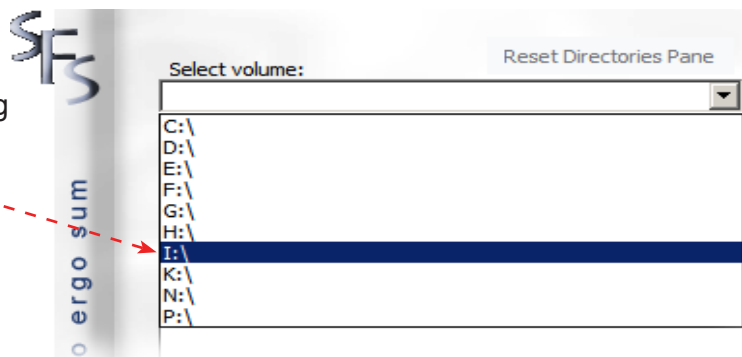
When the program starts, the **Select Volume** combo box displays nothing.



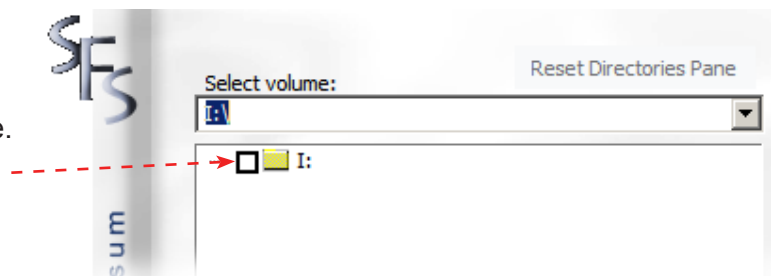
Clicking on **combo box** selection **arrow** will display all available drives on the **PC**, running this program.



Required volume letter is selected by highlighting it and clicking on it with left **Mouse** button.



The selected drive letter will be displayed in the Directories Pane. Click on the **square** to select the directory tree.



To expand the displayed volume or directory, click on the **plus sign**.




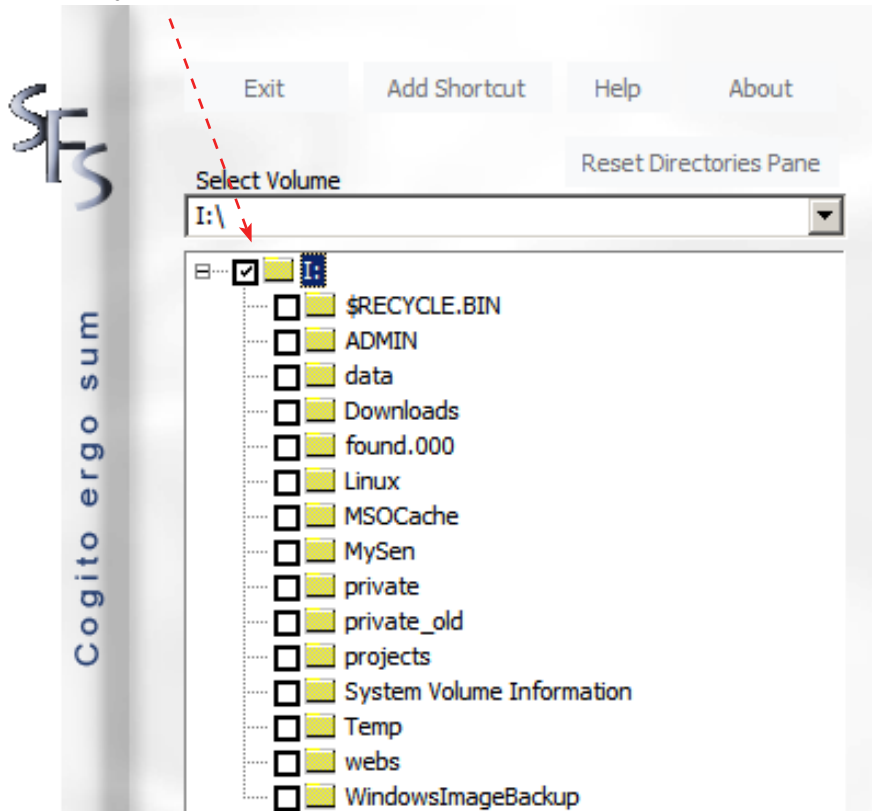
All available directories on drive 'I:\' will be displayed:

PLEASE NOTE:

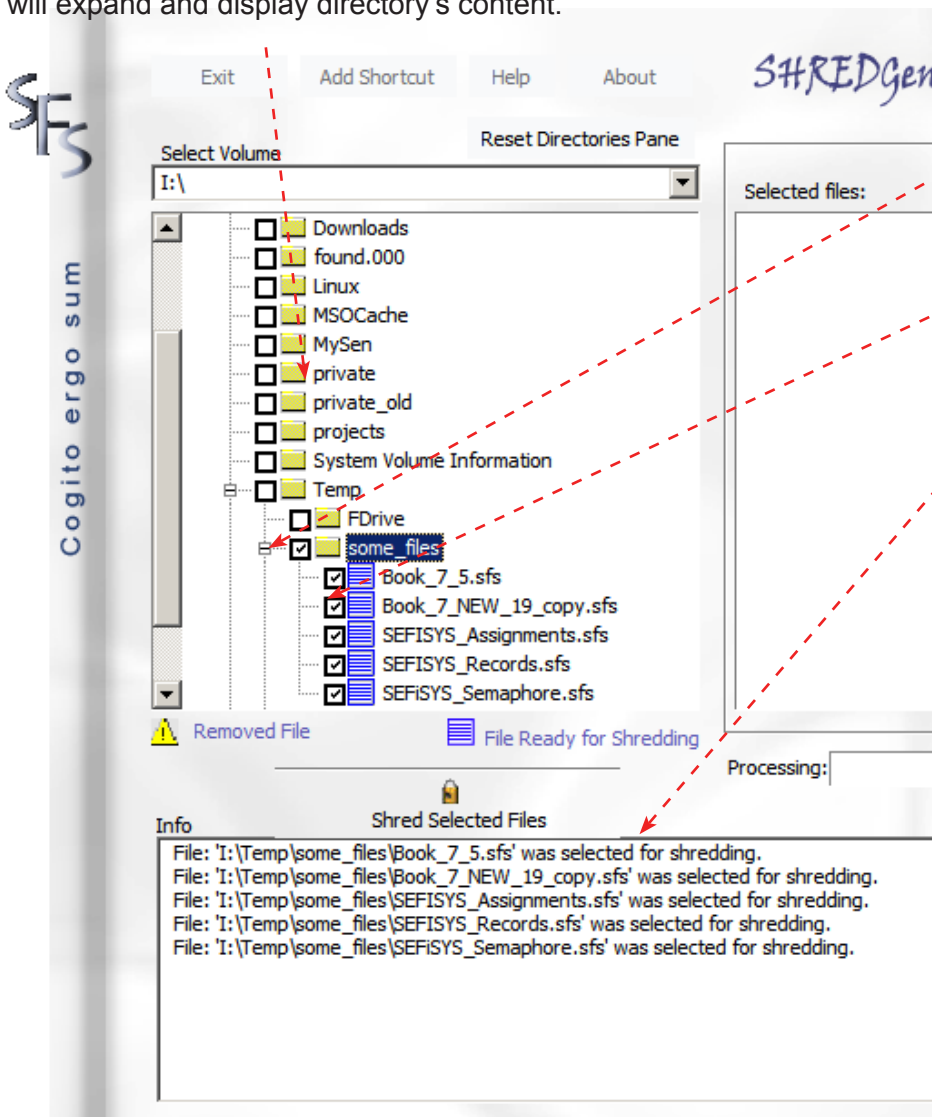
Clicking on the **square** will select associated directories, and all eligible files it contains will be marked for shredding

Clicking on the **plus sign** will expand selected directory and reveal all eligible files, already marked for shredding.

Selected files for shredding can be unmarked by removing the **check-mark**. 

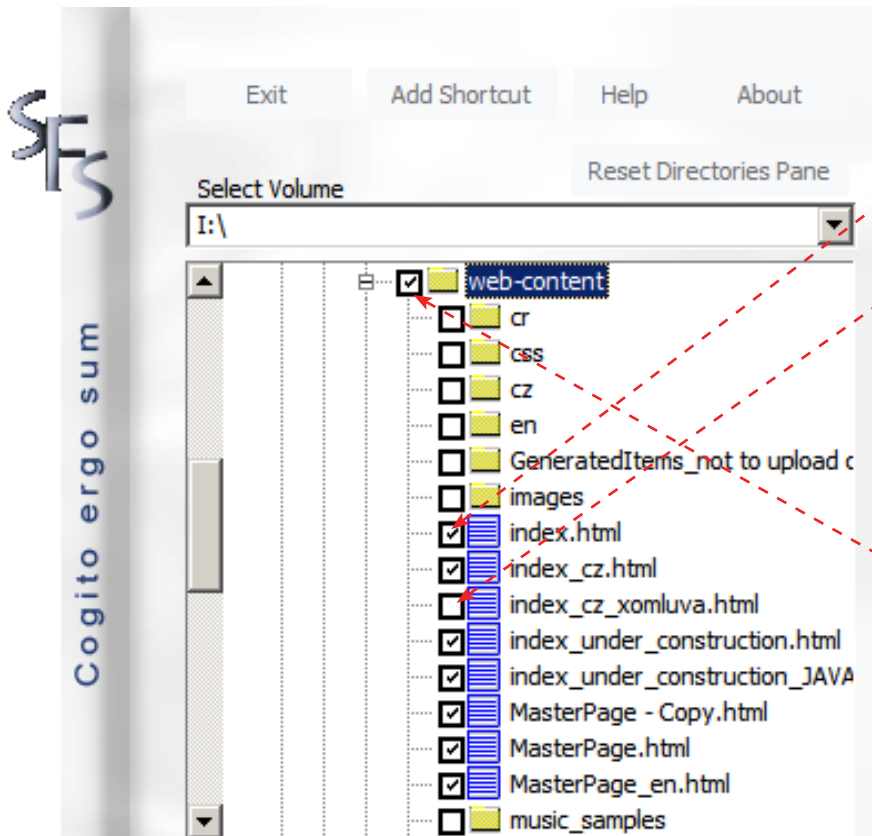


Clicking on the **directory icon** will select the directory. Subsequent clicking on directory's **plus/minus sign** will expand and display directory's content.



Eligible files for shredding will be displayed with the selected **check-mark** next to their icon.

This selection will be confirmed in the **Info** text box.



Files selected for shredding will have **check- mark** next to its icon.

Files without ticked **check- mark** will not be shredded.

Clicking on the resulting **minus sign** will hide all files again.

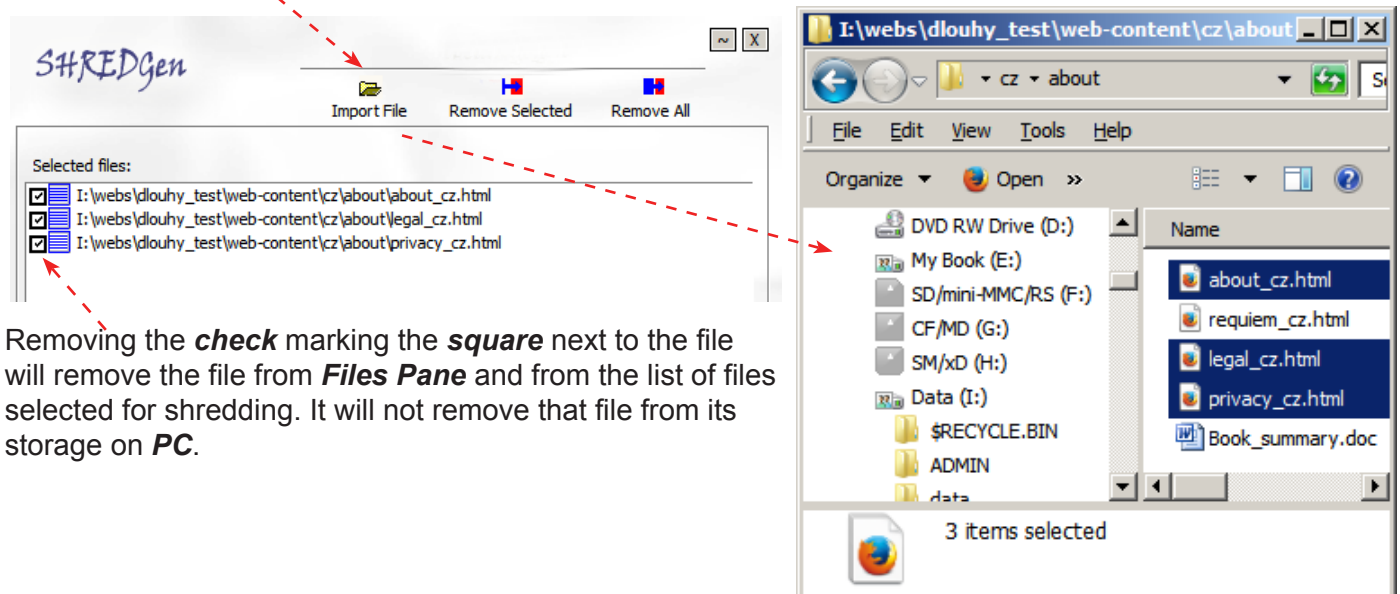
To add files to **Files Pane**:

- **Drag&Drop procedure** - To add single or multiple files, open **Windows Explorer**, navigate to the desired directory and its displayed files, select one or more files by clicking on them.
(To select more than one file, click on one file with left **Mouse** button, hold **Ctrl** button on the keyboard down, and start clicking on other files. All selected files will be highlighted.)
Holding the left **Mouse** button down, move the highlighted files block to **Files Pane** and release the left **Mouse** button.)

- To add a single file, you can also use **Import File** button, and in the displayed **File Dialog** select the required file.

All selected or dropped files will be already marked as selected for processing.

Removing **check- mark** attached to the selected **file** will remove this file from the **Files Pane** and also from the list of files selected for shredding.



Removing the **check** marking the **square** next to the file will remove the file from **Files Pane** and from the list of files selected for shredding. It will not remove that file from its storage on **PC**.

PLEASE NOTE:

The **Directories Pane** and **Files Pane** are interconnected, what makes the selection of files for shredding simpler.

- Selected files for shredding in **Directories Pane**, will not be displayed in **Files Pane**.
- Selected files in **Directories Pane** have a priority, i.e. , initially selected files in **Files Pane**, and subsequently selected in **Directories Pane** will be deleted from the **Files Pane** and will be displayed & selected for shredding in **Directories Pane** only.

The screenshot shows the PClock application window. On the left is the **Directories Pane** showing a tree view of folders and files. The 'some_files' folder is expanded, showing five files: Book_7_5.sfs, Book_7_NEW_19_copy.sfs, SEFISYS_Assignments.sfs, SEFISYS_Records.sfs, and SEFISYS_Semaphore.sfs. All these files have blue checkmarks next to them. On the right is the **Files Pane**, which displays a table of files. The same five files are listed, but they are not checked. A red dashed arrow points from the text 'Displayed files already selected in Dirs Pane will not be selected in Files Pane.' to the files in the Files Pane. Below the Files Pane is the **Action Pane**, which is currently empty. At the bottom right, it says 'Number of selected files: 5'. At the bottom is the **History Pane**, which contains two entries: 'Dropped File: 'I:\Temp\some_files\Book_7_NEW_19_copy.sfs' is already selected in Directories Pane.' and 'Dropped File: 'I:\Temp\some_files\Book_7_5.sfs' is already selected in Directories Pane.'

Name	Date modified	Type
Book_7_5.sfs	19/02/2019 10:59	SFS File
Book_7_NEW_19_copy.sfs	19/05/2019 14:24	SFS File
SEFISYS_Assignments.sfs	10/09/2023 10:10	SFS File
SEFISYS_Records.sfs	10/09/2023 10:10	SFS File
SEFISYS_Semaphore.sfs	8/11/2018 17:45	SFS File

Processing: Number of selected files: 5

Info: Shred Selected Files
Dropped File: 'I:\Temp\some_files\Book_7_NEW_19_copy.sfs' is already selected in Directories Pane.
Dropped File: 'I:\Temp\some_files\Book_7_5.sfs' is already selected in Directories Pane.

Action Pane displays current action, or the result of action just finished.

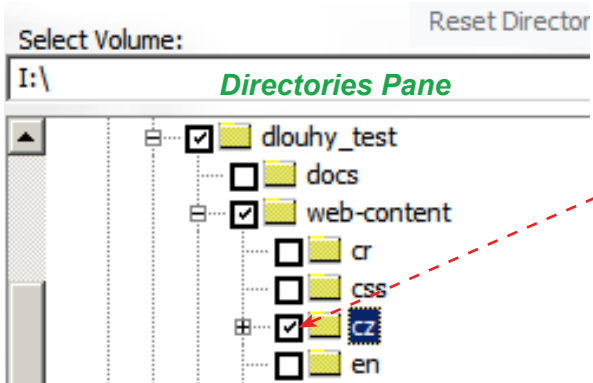
History Pane sequentially displays latest actions - In the example above, it informs about dropping of 2 files to the **Files Pane**, which were not displayed there, since they are already displayed in **Directories Pane**.

Removing the **check** marking the **square** next to the file in **Directories Pane** will remove the file from the list of files selected for shredding. It will not remove that file from directory tree and file storage on **PC**. Clicking on empty **square** will again select the file for shredding.



Selecting files for shredding in the *Directories Pane*:

Select volume drive and then navigate down the directories tree by clicking with left **Mouse** button on displayed directories icon.



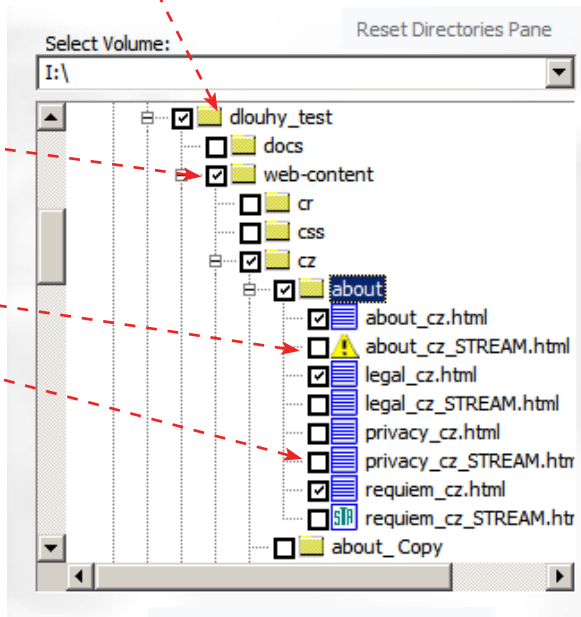
Clicking with left **Mouse** button on empty directory **square** will display the **plus sign** in front of selected directory icon.

Clicking with left **Mouse** button on directory **plus sign** will display content of directory, including all files and any sub-directories. After selection, the **plus sign** will change to **minus sign**.

The selected file for shredding will be displayed with **check-mark** next to the file name.

Already shredded files will be displayed with the **Removed File** icon and cannot be any more selected for shredding.

After removing the **check-mark**, the program will remove the file from the list of files selected for shredding. The selected file will be still displayed in the **Directories Pane**, with the **check-mark** removed.



After shredding the file icon changes from:

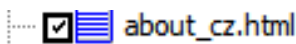


PLEASE NOTE:

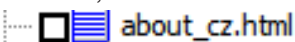
Only files marked with **check-mark** will be shredded. Already shredded files cannot be recovered. They can only be replaced in their file storage by their original plain version.

Directories Pane

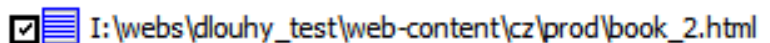
Only displayed and selected files will be shredded



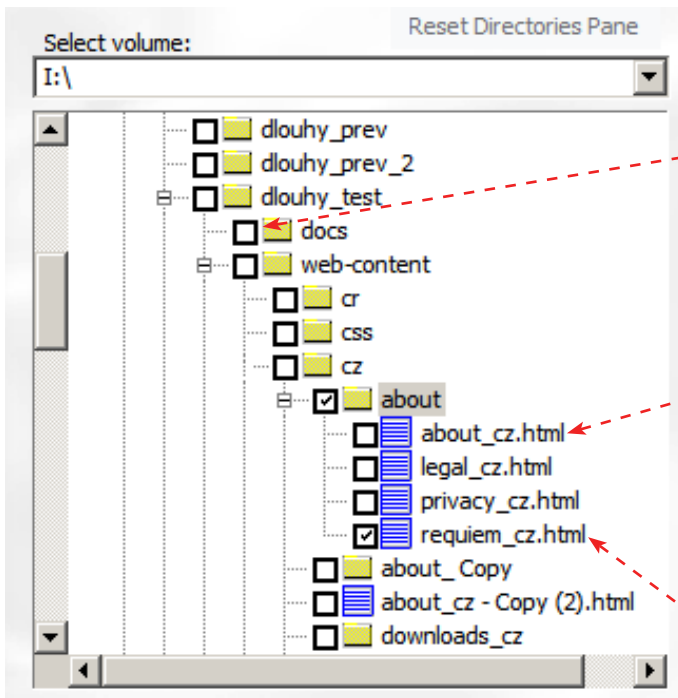
If unmarked, the file will not be shredded



Files Pane



Unmarked files are not displayed in the **Files Pane**.



Marked directories without displayed **plus sign** stand for directories without any files eligible for shredding.

Files:

'about_cz.html'
 "legal_cz.html",
 'privacy_cz.html' and
 'about_cz-Copy(2).html'

will not be shredded.'

In this example, only one displayed and marked file will be shredded: 'requiem_cz.html'

SHREDGen Limitations:

- For practical reasons, only one instance of this program can be running on one PC at the time.
- The maximum number of files selected for shredding cannot exceed 400. If this number is exceeded, the program will display an information message and then stops executing. Should you wish to shred more files, divide them into groups of less than 400 files in each group.
- Creating shortcut from the program running on USB or other external devices:
 The shortcut on the screen will be valid and have program's icon only if the device containing the program is inserted.
- Shredded files cannot be reverted back to its original. **Think before using this program, please ...**

PLEASE NOTE:

The program *SHREDGen* is designed for Windows 7 - 10, and it works on Windows files. The installation program comes in *ZIP* or *RAR* file format, and contains all files needed to run *SHREDGen*. These additional files are usually included in every installation of Windows; nevertheless, if selected before starting the installation, the installation program will create in the selected directory its own sub-directory *SHREDGen*, and copy there these files.

The program could be installed and started from any selected directory, already existing on a hard drive, memory card or USB drive.

For *SHREDGen* to be run from inserted USB or memory card, i.e., to be portable, the program does not register with the installation of Windows running on PC. Therefore, there is no need to register or activate the program.

The program does not require automatic updates and does not collect or send any information. It does not use, and therefore it does not need Internet connection.

There is only one version of *SHREDGen*, which is its full version and will never expire.

The *SHREDGen* program **is free**, does not contain any advertising and in its unchanged code can be freely distributed.

The current version is 1.1.0.

Should you wish to contact me, use '*Contact*' option at the bottom of any web page on my web site
www.dlouhy.info

You do not have to supply your e-mail address, unless you expect me to reply to your message.



Cogito, ergo sum.
(I think, therefore I am.)

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