



[Login](#) | [Standard Edition](#) | [Edit](#)

10/15/2007 • | [Forecast](#) | [Traffic](#)

phillyBurbs.com
Your Internet Starts Here.

[Home](#) | [News](#) | [Sports](#) | [Money](#) | [Entertainment](#) | [Guides](#) | [Interact](#) | [Search](#) | [Shopping](#)

You are missing out!
Click to select an edition.
[Advertise](#) | [Contact Us](#)

Direct Classifieds
PLACE YOUR AD HERE!

MONEY

[Money Home](#)
[Business News](#)
[Market News](#)
[Market Data](#)
[Detailed Quotes](#)

[Local Business](#)
[Consumer Affairs](#)
[Your Money](#)
[Your Career](#)
[Women and Money](#)

[Home](#) / [Money](#) / [Local Business](#)

Destroying your data

By **JOHN ANASTASI**
Bucks County Courier Times

Al Villamil believes almost every workplace has a room or a closet where obsolete computers go to die.

Companies upgrade their systems but hang onto the old computers, fearing their hard drives could still contain sensitive files or other data, he said.

It's a computer graveyard, said Villamil, the president of Bensalem's ShredStation Inc.

His company has been destroying and recycling documents for residents and businesses since 2005, but it is now adding a service that will eradicate old hard drives, personal digital assistants, cell phones, DVDs, floppies and compact discs.

One laptop can contain 20 million names and their credit card information these days, Villamil said.

Safely disposing of that type of information not only helps prevent identity theft, but also is required of businesses by federal law. The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act of 1999 and the Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act of 2003 all contain provisions dealing with proper disposal of documents.

All of those laws apply to information and they aren't specific as to whether it's paper or electronic, he said.

ShredStation is headquartered in Bensalem, but also has offices in



[CLICK TO ENLARGE](#)



Halloween Guide

SCREAM



Visit Halloween
[Click Here](#)

BUCKS COUNTY Courier Times Online Edition
[SUBSCRIBE](#) [SIGN IN](#)



ShredStation is headquartered in Bensalem, but also has offices in California and Ontario.

It started as a paper document destruction company that provided the service in three ways:

- documents could be put in mailbox-sized vaults at various locations (there's one at Madison Bank in Horsham);
- they could be shipped to ShredStation;
- ShredStation could pick them up.

Earlier this year, ShredStation began picking up, destroying and recycling electronic media as well.

“It was completely consumer-driven,” Villamil said of the decision.

Late this year, the company plans to unveil e-Media Vaults, which will be similar to the document vaults, but designed to accept hard drives, PDAs and other small electronic devices. They would be broken up by a device similar to a large hole-puncher and the small parts would be shredded.

Featured Job Videos from

phillyBurbs.com

JOBSEARCH TV

Watch This Weeks Job Search TV Now

Certified Diabetes Educator/Healthcare Professional
ICT Group

Creative Individuals
Mealey's Furniture

Machine Operator & More

The recent changes at ShredStation reflect a trend among paper-shredding operations, said Robert Johnson, executive director of the Phoenix-based National Association for Information Destruction.

“It's hard to be in the paper-shredding business and not be in the electronic [destruction business]”

Johnson said Johnson, whose trade group represents about 900 information destruction companies.

Identity theft protection is a big reason for the growth in this business, since even files deleted from a hard drive can be resurrected with the right software.

But that's not the only reason the need for electronic destruction services is growing, Johnson said. Americans own 3 billion pieces of electronic equipment and the speed at which they become outdated has created a high turnover rate for computers and other devices.

“Look at how fast people go through cell phones these days,” Johnson said.

It's also more environmentally responsible to properly destroy and recycle those and other electronic devices than to bury them in a landfill,

Johnson said.

Villamil agreed.

“People are becoming more aware of the environment ... and they are becoming more aware of the data they are carrying around every day,” Villamil said. “I think this will be a significant component of our business moving forward.”

ShredStation is investigating local locations for vaults for electronic-equipment destruction, a company spokesman said.

“[We’re] always mining for additional vault placement opportunities and have had some preliminary discussions with retailers and building managers in Bucks and Montgomery counties that we’re hoping can make it happen soon,” spokesman Owen Murphy said.

On the Web

<http://www.shredstation.com/>

John Anastasi can be reached at 215-949-4170 and at janastasi@phillyBurbs.com.

October 15, 2007 7:49 AM

Title:

Rating: Low High

Comments:

Conversation Guidelines: Phillyburbs welcomes your comments irrespective of your political or ideological point of view. At the same time, we reserve the right to delete comments that use excessive foul language, are abusive, off-topic, or include ad hominem attacks on other posters or news makers.

Story Options: [Reader Comments](#) [Print this story](#) [Email a friend](#)

©2007 Copyright Calkins Media, Inc. All rights reserved.

[back to top](#)

phillyBurbs Highlights

[Check out PhillyBurbs NEW College Guide](#)

[Check PhillyBurbs.com Traffic Before You Travel](#)

[Sign up for PhillyBurbs Text Alerts](#)

[Going out tonight?](#)
Get on the EDGE