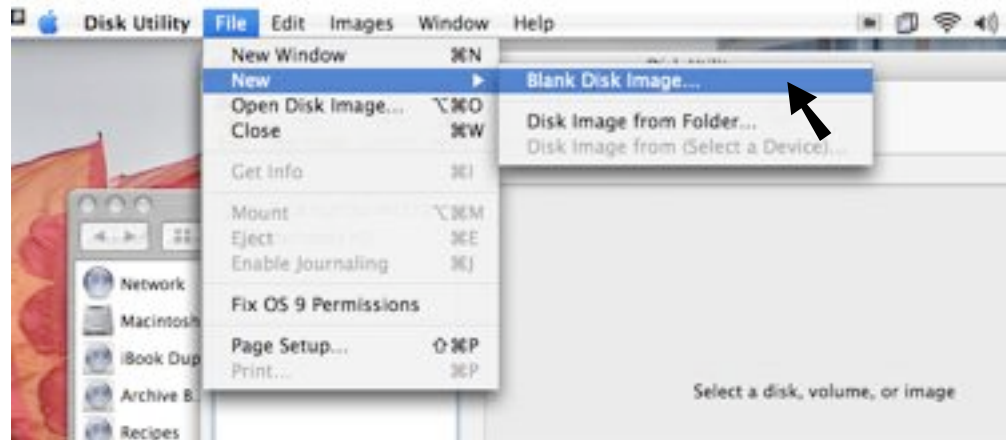


This is a quick, easy, effective and **free** way to secure selected data by creating an encrypted, password-protected **sparse disk image** using Apple's Disk Utility (OS 10.3 and 10.4). It was suggested in the Apple Discussion forums and in the July 2006 *MacWorld*.

The advantage of the sparseimage format is that the disk image uses only the minimum space that it needs on your hard disk, and grows only as more data is added.

Step 1. Open Disk Utility *Applications/Utilities/Disk Utility*

Step 2.

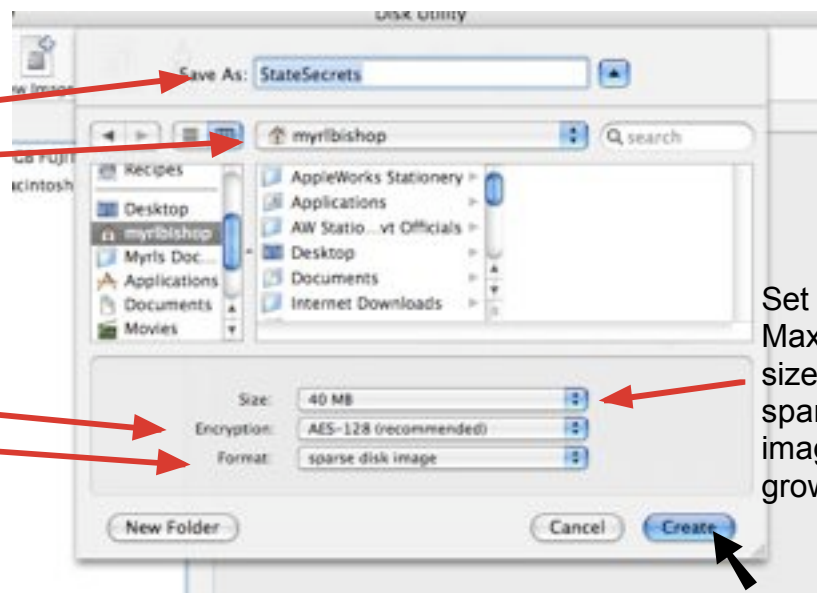


Step 3.

Select a name and location.

Set the encryption and format.

Set the Maximum size the sparse disk image can grow to.



Step 4.

Choose and enter a password.

Important: for security **Uncheck** this.

(Otherwise someone could open the disk just by double-clicking if your Keychain is unlocked.)



Using the Disk

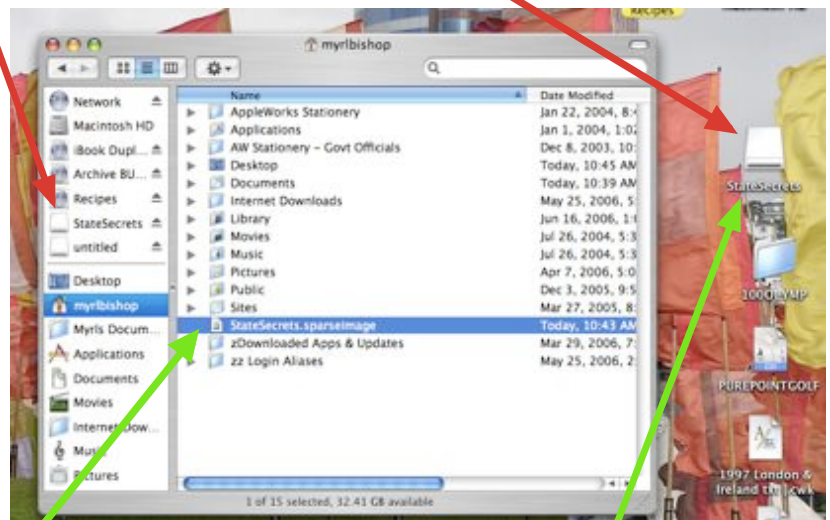
To access the disk, double-click on its location in the Finder and enter the password.

The disk will be mounted on the Desktop and show up in Finder window sidebars.

You can now double-click on either disk icon to open it. Then you can create folders in it, drag and drop or Save data to it, and everything else you normally do with a disk. You can even make an alias of a favorite item on the disk and put it on the Desktop or other convenient location. When you double-click the alias, the Password dialog box to mount the disk will automatically come up. Running an application which automatically opens a file which you have put on the encrypted disk (for example your Quicken accounts*) also will bring up this dialog box.

*Quicken has password and encryption protection built-in, but it is much weaker than the AES 128 disk encryption.

To secure and re-encrypt your data, simply unmount (eject) the disk by dragging it to the Trash/Eject icon, or select it and go to *Finder/File/Eject ...*



Note: -If you copy or backup *this*, the copy will be encrypted.

-If you copy or backup data from the *mounted disk image*, it will not be encrypted.

The password for a disk image can be changed in Disk Utility. Select the disk image, then go to Images/Change Password. Enter the current password, then the new one.

To **PERMANENTLY DELETE** the disk and all its contents, unmount the disk from the desktop, then drag the icon from its location in the Finder to the Trash. Empty the Trash.

