

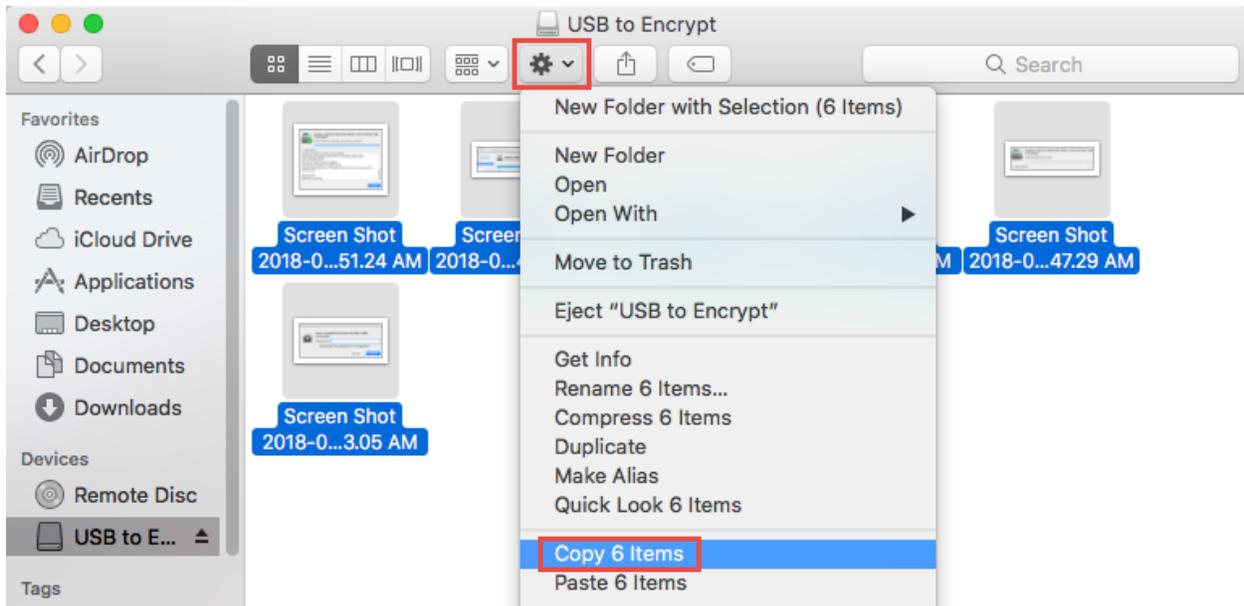
## How to encrypt an external USB drive using Disk Utility in MacOS

To apply encryption to a USB drive there are two steps:

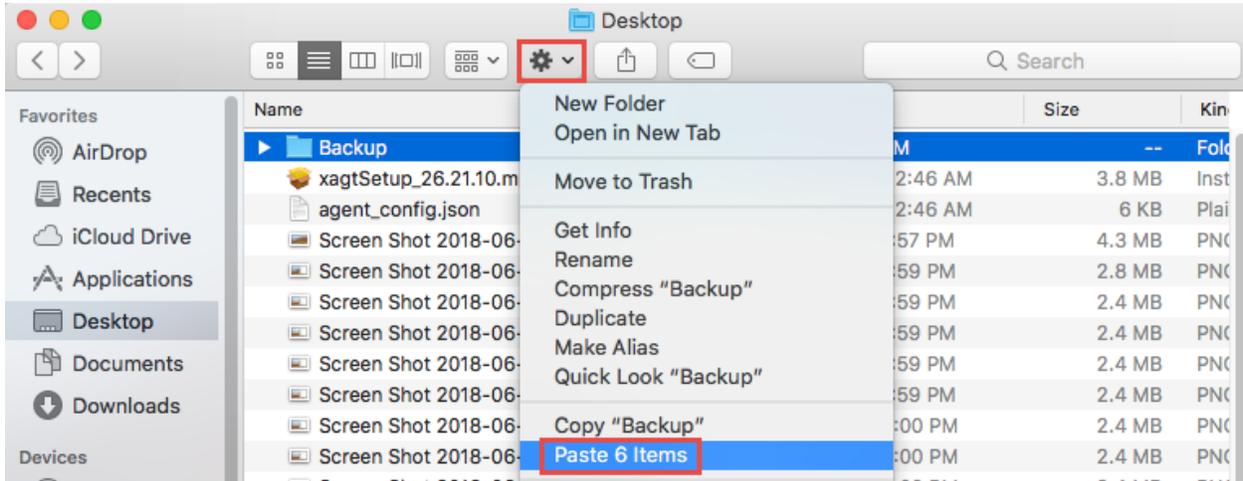
- I. Backing up the contents of the drive
- II. Formatting the USB drive with Encryption

### Back up the contents of the drive

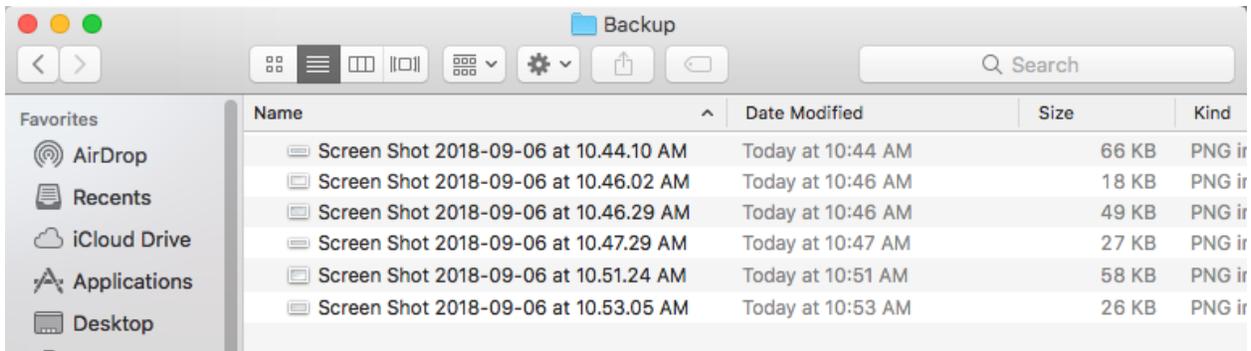
1. Plug in the USB drive you want to Encrypt.
2. Open the USB drive in Finder, select the files to back up and copy them from the Finder edit menu.



3. Create a folder on the Mac local Hard Drive (you can name it “**Backup**”) – this is where you will back up your copied files to. Then, from the Finder edit menu, paste the items in the folder you created.

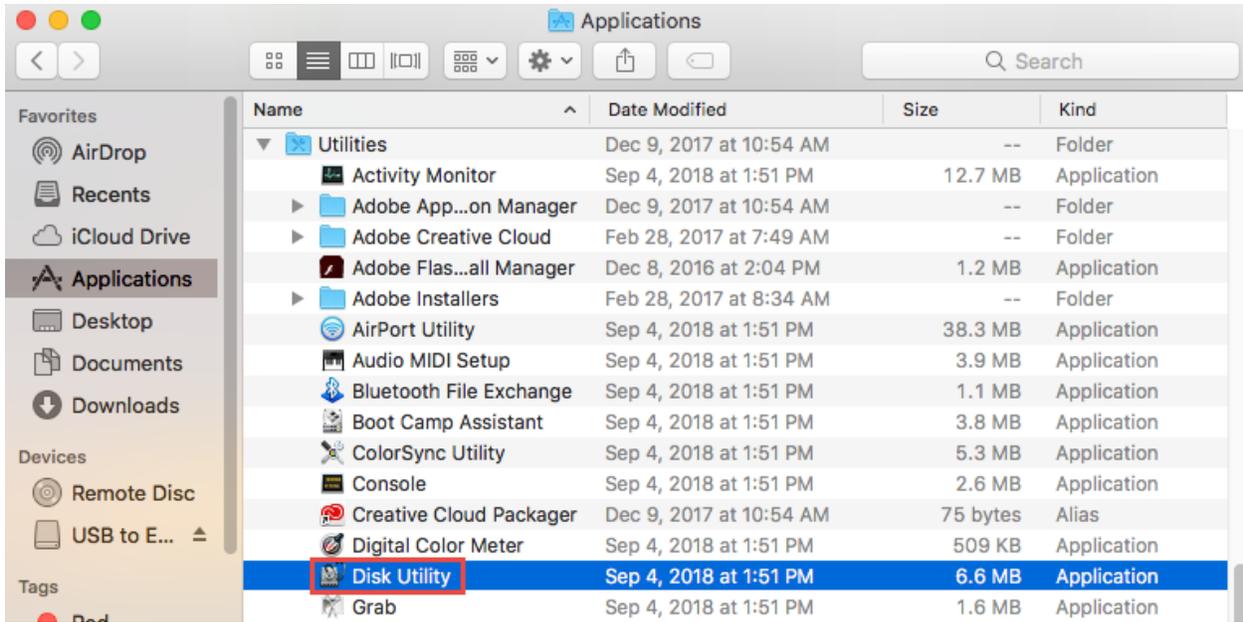


4. Make sure all your files have been copied to the folder as the encryption process will wipe the USB drive.



### Format the USB drive for encryption

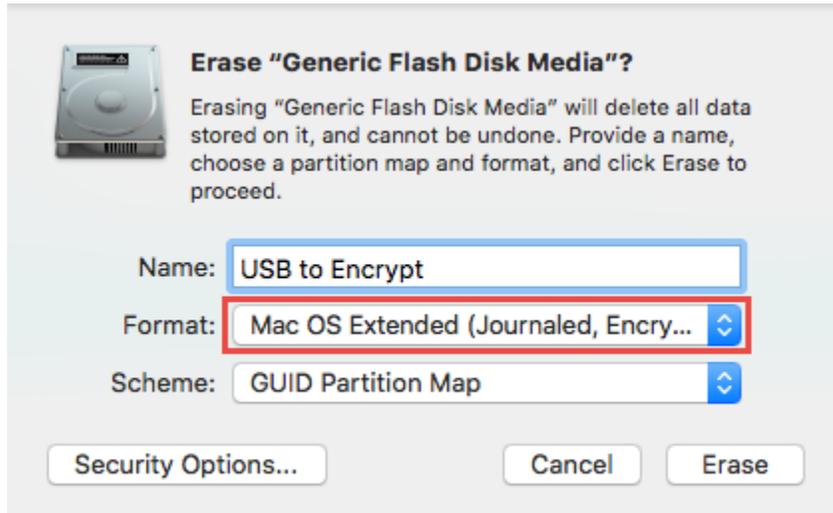
1. Go to Applications > Utilities > **Double-click Disk Utility.**



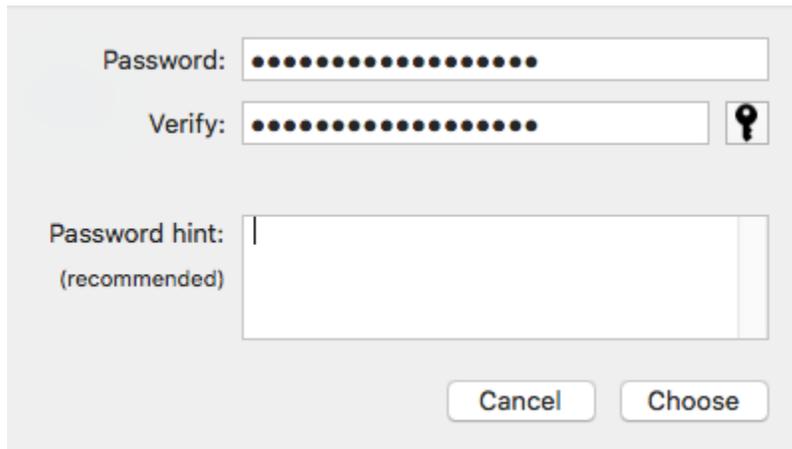
2. Select your USB drive and then click on the **Erase** tab.



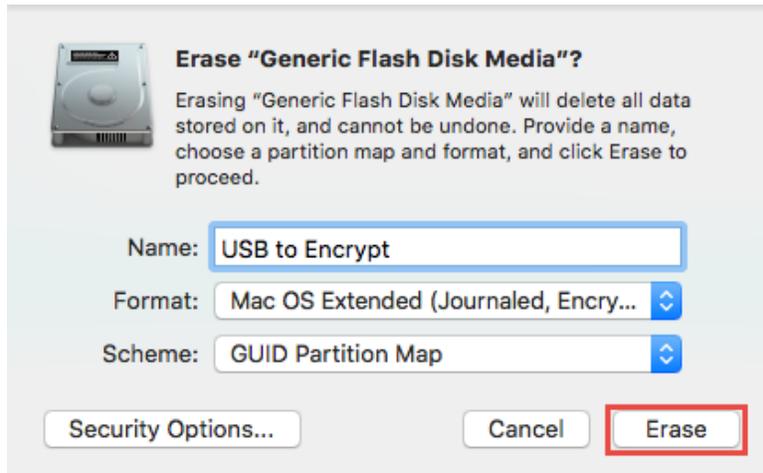
3. Give a name to the USB media and choose **Mac OS extended (Journaled, Encrypted)** from the Format menu.



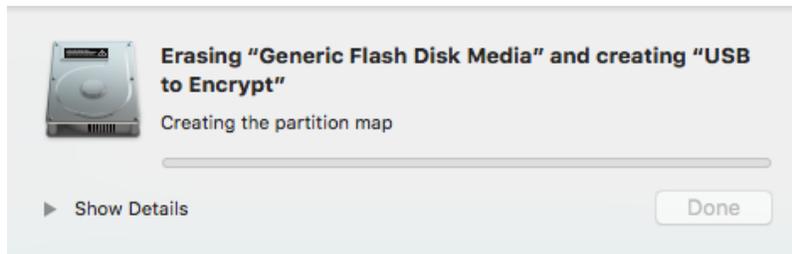
4. Enter the password you will use to access the USB drive once it is encrypted and click on **Choose**.



5. Press the **Erase** button to start the encryption process.



The disk will take a few minutes to format and encrypt. The time taken will vary depending on the size of the disk.



6. Once the encryption process is finished, unplug the USB drive and plug it in again, you will notice that this time you will be asked for a password to access the drive. Your device is now encrypted.

