



Answer Quest Tip Sheet

November 1999

Training Your Future



Backing Up Is Hard To Do – NOT

Beep Beep Beep. What's that sound? Hopefully it's not your PC crashing. I hear you thinking, "Hey, I don't need to worry about that. It will never happen to me."

Maybe you feel confident that since you work for a company that does regular "backups" that your documents/files are safe.

Think again! Is everything getting backed up? What about your PC at your desk? Do you store anything on your local hard drive(s)? If so, I bet it's NOT getting backed up.

"No, everything is stored on network drives." you say. Hmmmmmm, and if something gets lost, can you get it back? What is your company's policy on restoring your work for you? How soon -- hours? days?

Now I have you thinking about home, I bet. Are you backing up your PC at home? Some of you are nodding "Yes, I back up my documents all the time onto floppies."

That's GREAT! But what about the rest of the PC? What about all those programs you have installed on there.

"I have the original recovery CD/diskettes that came with my PC, so I'm all set." Oh you are? What about all the programs you have installed SINCE you bought your PC? Or programs you have downloaded from the Internet?

Do you realize how many hours it would take you to recreate what you have? Do you realize that recovery from a crashed hard drive or virus can be simplified by just buying some type of backup unit? Make a backup of your whole system maybe once a month (or after installing a new program) and you could save yourself days of headaches and aggravation.

Backing up your PC should be a top priority. Even if you only play games and send emails, you should still do a backup.

Just remember, the best-laid plans can go up in smoke if you don't think about the recovery process also. This includes the Windows registry being backed up correctly. If the software doesn't backup your registry, then you will end up having to reinstall your software anyway.

Regular backups should be performed: weekly data backups and monthly full backups of your entire hard drive(s). Also, you should perform a full backup after you've installed any new software.

Make sure whatever you buy works with YOUR operating system and that it meets your memory and system requirements. Check out the price of the tapes/disks that you will be using. High price tapes/disks can be a major factor in the overall cost of your backup solution.

Here are some of your options:

First, you have tape drives. These are great for full system backups. You can restore the entire hard drive or just a few files if you need, like your work documents. But if those files are on the end

of the tape, it will have to go through the entire tape to find them before restoring them. Different types of tape drives media are ADR, DAT, DLT, Travan, and QIC.

Next, you have ZIP drives. These are great for data backups. Simply copy your files over to the ZIP drive and you have a backup. You can also work straight from a ZIP drive but it's a little slow. ZIP drives are not good for full system backups. Since a typical hard drive can be several gigabytes large, 100 MB ZIP drives would be too many and too expensive for a full backup solution.

The "big brother" of the ZIP drive is the JAZ drive. These hold 1- and 2- gigabytes of data but are somewhat pricey. The advantage is you have additional hard disk space without installing another hard drive.

The new thing is writable (CDR) or re-writable (CDRW) CD-ROMs. There is software that will allow you to do full backups to these drives or you can simply copy your data.

Webopedia Word Definition

<http://webopedia.internet.com/TERM/b/backup.html>

<http://webopedia.internet.com/TERM/t/tape.html>

http://webopedia.internet.com/TERM/t/tape_drive.html

About.com - Focus on Windows (go to Backup links)

<http://windows.about.com>

@Backup (online backups)

<http://www.backup.com>

Calculate your storage from OnStream

<http://onstream.com/storagecalc/index.html>

Entrepreneur's Backup Plan

http://www.entrepreneurmag.com/homebiz/tech/home_tip24.html

Family PC - How Does Storage Stack Up

<http://familypc.zdnet.com/hardware/other/feature/25a6/>

Ghost Disk Image Software

<http://www.symantec.com/sabu/ghost/indexA.html>

Go Network - Hardware Storage Section

http://infoseek.go.com/WebDir/Computing/Hardware/Peripherals_and_storage/Computer_storage

Hewlett Packard Backup Solutions

<http://www.hp.com/storage/prodinfo.html>

And of course, you have the WEB solution. There are companies that provide you with a way to backup your entire hard drive through the Internet. My only concern with this is my backup leaves my protective custody (who else has access to it?).

Look into all your options before you make a decision and ask around what your friends or co-workers are using. A few of my friends gave these recommendations, "Go with CDR, the media is inexpensive (about \$1 per CD) and the drive is versatile." and "I recommend backup solutions with ADR (Advanced Digital Recording) technology. It's an all-new, variable speed, digital tape storage solution. It's cost effect and easy to use."

I've found some links on the internet that explain all about backups as well as links to companies that sell some of the products discussed in this newsletter. There is much more out there than what I'm linking to here.

IBM Desktop Tape Backup Solutions
<http://www1.ibm.link.ibm.com/HTML/SPEC/g2216013.html>

Iomega - ZIP and JAZ drives
<http://www.iomega.com>

Novastor Backup Software
<http://www.novastor.com/>

OnStream Backup Solutions
<http://www.onstream.com>

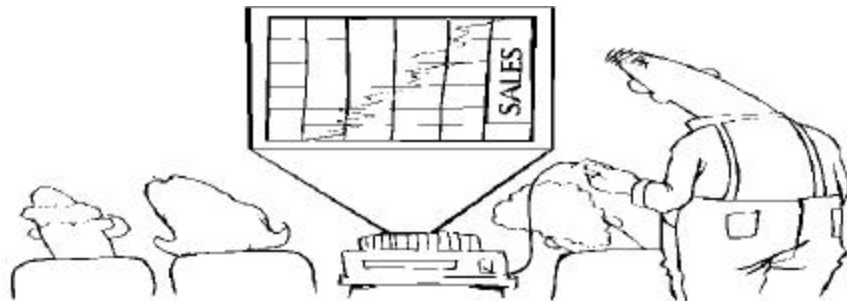
PC Magazine Online - 1998 The Drive to Protect (although this is from last year, the information on the different types of backup is good)
<http://www1.zdnet.com/pcmag/pclabs/nettools/1711/cover1.html>

PC Magazine Online - 1999 Utilities Guide
<http://www.zdnet.com/pcmag/features/utilities99/index.html>

PowerQuest - PQDI Disk Image Software
<http://www.powerquest.com/driveimage/index.html>

Veritas Backup Software
<http://www.veritas.com/>

Winfiles Backup Utilities
<http://winfiles.cnet.com/apps/98/backup.html>



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CONGRATULATIONS!

SANDRA LUCAS of Forestville, MD is our
October contest winner and won a free
software resource book!

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