

Data Backup Comments

I know many of you are thinking that I write about backing-up data frequently, and may even be getting a little board of it. It's for your own good though; too many people are still bursting into tears when I have to tell them that their data is gone forever. One thing I will be focusing on this weeks article is what kind of information needs to be backed up.

Really the easiest way to backup your computer is to use an external USB hard drive with disk cloning software. Disk cloning software will allow you to make an exact duplicate of your hard on a same size or larger hard drive. The software can be set to automatically backup your system. If your computers' original hard drive was ever damaged or corrupted all you would have to do is use the disk cloning software to restore the backup image and within an hour or two your computer would be back to normal. External hard drives with disk cloning software normally cost \$199 or less.

For those of you that don't want to spend money on an external hard drive then I suggest using your CD Burner. Practically every new and used computer sold today has one of these drives pre-installed. These drives have the capability to back up 700 Megs of information to one CD. For most people this is plenty of room to store all of that valuable data.

When backing up to CD it is important that you only back up data and not programs. Programs are the software that you purchase from the store or the software that came with your computer. This software normally came on a master CD and is probably kept in a safe place already, (hint-hint). When backing up data only most people will find that they can backup everything that is important to just one or two CD's

So that brings us to the real purpose of this article. What should be backed up? The My Documents Folder is one of the most important. When a person creates a document in Word or Excel it is normally saved to this folder. This folder is considered a catchall folder where numerous programs save their finished product. Inside this folder you will typically see many other important sub folder such as My Pictures and My Music.

Most people realize the importance of the My Documents Folder and will normally be sure to back it up. Other less obvious data however may include your Favorites folder in Internet Explorer. This folder can be found on the C: drive under Documents and Settings. Once you are in the Documents and Settings folder you will see the different logon names. These are called profiles. Double click on the profile you want to backup. Once inside your profile you will see a Favorites folder, this is where your bookmarks are kept. Another folder you may consider backing up while you are inside your profile is the Desktop folder. This folder contains anything that you save on your desktop screen.

Another program many people neglect to backup is their e-mail client. If you use Outlook Express or a similar e-mail client then I suggest you perform a Google search for a backup tool to help you complete this task; Microsoft does not provide a good utility for this job. Most of the third party backup utilities will normally save a copy of your e-mail data in you're my Documents Folder for the easiest backup.

Once again, it's not important how you backup your computer, It's just important that you do it. If you have any questions concerning this or other computer related topics

call the computer experts at Computer Depot. Contact Thomas, Roger or Scott at 947-0749 or E-mail me at Sales@ComputerDepotOnline.com.