Article: COMPUTERS BEHAVING BADLY
Topic: Backups
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For some reason, backing up your data is one of those things that is always put off – until it is too late and you sit there wondering why you never did find that time to do it. But please be under no illusion, it will be what will save your bacon when your computer turns pear shape.

We all keep important information on our computers. The level of importance you place on this data should dictate your commitment to securing it to prevent loss.

Regular backups will be the difference between only loosing a short amount of work and having the ability to be back up quickly OR sitting there wondering what data is lost and how you are going to get your hands in it again.

As long as your data is securely backed up, even if the computer is a smoking pile of rubble, you can resurrect that data on another PC with very little down time.

You may think it is all beyond you, but it can be as simple a procedure as copying your most important files to a floppy. If the sheer size of your files makes this process arduous then consider backing up to a CD. This process is made very simple by the software that comes with these units.

Typically you only need to backup your personal data, the stuff you have created. Don't bother with the system side of things, like Windows, virus software etc, as this can be reinstalled from the original CD's they were first installed from.

You should be saving Documents, Emails, Address Book, Internet Favorites, music and pictures. And anything else you have made or changed. The other stuff like wallpaper background, Word toolbar settings, Windows colour schemes and such are all just icing on the cake and may not be critical in getting your PC or business up and running.

Be aware that the day will come when you will need to recover your data. Be it through flood, fire, theft, mechanical failure or human error, your files will be inaccessible. Like all insurance policies, you probably will never need to use it but if you do need to, how good is it knowing that your backups will be your safety net.

I see too many PC's, simply taken out by a virus, that suffer data loss and/or the PC to be rebuilt. In most cases, the data has been able to be secured prior to the work but in some it has been irreversibly lost plus why put this important task in someone else's hand.

Don't think this can't happen to you. It will – as sure as death and taxes.

Don't ignore it, BACKUP NOW !!!. Delay at your peril.

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