Bowie Seniors Computer Club Forum
BACKING UP YOUR COMPUTER

AGENDA

- Why?
- Objectives
- Approaches
- What you should do
- Anecdotes
- Demonstrations

PANEL

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MAJOR OBJECTIVES of ANY PC BU APPROACH IS TO:

- **Insure the integrity of your operating system.**
- **Prevent data loss.**
- **Have its use easy and cost effective.**

WHY?
"Go ahead – refuse to acknowledge Murphy's Law!"

Data Corruption:
- Accidental data deletion
- Virus infections
- Removal of flash drives
- Software corruption

Physical Corruption:
- Power interruption
- Voltage spikes
- Computer component failure
    - Hard, flash & SSD drives
    - Motherboard
    - Power supply
- Catastrophe (Fire, Theft, H_2O)

APPROACH TO SYSTEM or FILE RESTORATION DEPENDS ON THE NATURE of the PROBLEM

Catastrophic failure:
> Inability to boot os or
> Hard drive failure.

Use a DOS boot disk (CD ROM or flash drive) to run bu software & restore the system from a previously saved off line backup image file.

Directory or file loss:
> Accidental deletion or
> Otherwise file corruption.

Restore files from a previously saved backup file.

Moving data files to a new computer. Use the software loaded on your computer to restore data files only from a previously saved backup file.

Types of Backups

- Manufacturer's recovery sectors/disks
- Data backup
  - Documents   - Music
  - Photos   - Videos
- System image
  - Master boot record
  - Operating system
  - Applications
  - configurations
  - Personal data files

Where to Backup

- Separate folder or partition (not recommended)
- Second internal hard drive (~ $75)
- USB flash drive (~ $15 for 16 GB)
- External hard drive (~ $130) For Desktop
- Portable hard drive (~ $70) For Laptop
- Cloud (free for up to 7 GB, ~ $100/year)

The Low-Tech Backup Method

- Copy & paste
  - Create folder as holding tank: e.g., "For External Drive"
  - Copy newly created documents to holding tank.
  - Periodically transfer files from holding tank to external hard drive.
    - i.e., cut and paste

Backing Up is Hard to Do…… (not really)!

FIRST RECOGNIZE THAT YOUR SYSTEM WILL FAIL!

- Use a UPS
- Use an **external** hard drive (or cloud or local network or RAID server) to store backups
- What ever methodology you decide to use – **do it** frequently
- Make sure you have a **recovery boot disk** and you know how to set your BIOS to run it

REFERENCES

- http://data-backup-software-review.toptenreviews.com/

- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_backup_software

- Acronis Video   http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wFdAL7hpYvo