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COMPUTER SUPPORT AND MAIN WEEK 12

1. Backup Audit and Implementation

Current Backup Setup

At present, my personal data backup strategy is limited. I mainly store important documents, photos, and school work on my laptop's internal drive and occasionally upload some files to Google Drive. While this provides some level of data protection, it does **not fully follow the 3-2-1 backup rule**, which recommends keeping **three copies of data**, on **two different types of storage**, with **one copy stored offsite**. Currently, I only have two copies at best, and both are connected to the internet, which poses a risk in case of cyberattacks or accidental deletion.

Weaknesses

My current setup lacks redundancy and protection against hardware failure, ransomware, or accidental deletion. If my laptop is damaged or lost, I could lose all my locally stored data. Additionally, my cloud backup is not automated, which increases the chance of missing important updates.

Improvement Plan

1. **Primary Copy:** Keep original files on my laptop.
2. **Secondary Copy:** Use an **external hard drive** with **Windows File History** enabled for automatic weekly backups.
3. **Offsite Copy:** Use a **cloud storage service** such as **Google Drive** or **OneDrive** to automatically sync critical folders (documents, school work, and photos).
4. **Automation:** Schedule regular backups and enable real-time syncing for essential data.
5. **Encryption and Security:** Use password protection and cloud encryption to keep data secure.
6. **Verification:** Test restore options monthly to ensure backups are working properly.

Conclusion

By implementing this plan, I will have a reliable and compliant 3-2-1 backup strategy. This approach ensures that my data is protected from hardware failure, theft, or accidental loss, giving me peace of mind and maintaining data integrity for both academic and personal files.

2.Service	Cost per Month (Standard Home Plan)	Storage Limits	System Image / Full Disk Backup Support	File Versioning History
Backblaze	~\$7/month (or \$99/year for unlimited) for 1 computer. Backblaze Help+1	Unlimited data from one computer. Backblaze+1	Supports backing up all user-data files from a computer; does <i>not</i> emphasise full system image/bare-metal. BestBackupReviews.com+1	Versioning: one year of version history included. Backblaze
Carbonite	Basic: \$95.99/year (~\$8.00/month) for unlimited backup of one PC. Carbonite+1	Unlimited backup for one computer in the home plan. Carbonite+1	Home plan: full system-image (“mirror image”) backup only on higher tiers; basic home may not include full disk image. Computerwoche+1	Versioning: retains old file versions but only up to ~3 months on many home plans. DriveHQ+1
IDrive	\$9.95/month for 5 TB (Personal plan) for one user across multiple computers. IDrive	5 TB at the quoted monthly price; other tiers available. IDrive	Supports full disk-image backup / bare-metal restore on certain plans (e.g., the “Mirror” plan) and many levels of backup. IDrive Mirror	Versioning: continuous/real-time changes; supports many historical versions. IDrive

Conclusion

For a non-technical home user seeking a “set-it and forget it” backup solution, I would recommend **Backblaze**. It offers unlimited storage for one computer at a straightforward price, includes one year of version history (so you can recover older file versions), and has a highly simple interface with minimal configuration required. The fact that it doesn’t force you to pick storage capacity or manage tiers means less hassle for someone not wanting to deal with complex options. While Carbonite also offers unlimited backup, its versioning is more limited, and full system image backup is only on higher tiers. IDrive is feature-rich and supports full disk image backup and versioning nicely, but the requirement to pick a storage cap (e.g., 5 TB) and more configuration might be more amount of management than a non-technical user wants. Backblaze strikes the best balance of simplicity, value, and peace of mind.