



FEBRUARY

Battery Backup Systems

Battery Backup Systems. What are they, you ask?

Battery Backup - (Uninterruptable Power Supply or UPS) A battery powered power supply unit that is guaranteed to provide power to a computer in the event of interruptions in the incoming main electrical power. Modern UPSs communicate with the computer through the computer's USB port. This not only provides information such as battery time remaining, but can also trigger the computer to shut down gracefully in the event of a sustained power failure..

I have a Surge Protector, isn't that good enough?

NO, Surge Protectors do one thing and one thing only. They prevent your system from receiving a Power Surge.

While Power Surges are the most destructive of the 4 types of electrical power disturbances, they account for less than 5% of all power related issues. The second most destructive power disturbance, which accounts for 83% of all power related issues, is the Brown-Out. *** Surge Protectors don't offer any protection from Brown-Outs. ***

What is a Brown-Out?

Brown-Out - Brown-Outs are periods of low voltage in utility lines that can cause lights to dim and equipment to fail. Also known as voltage sags, this is the most common power problem.

Do Brown-Outs cause Damage?

Yes, while Brown-Outs usually don't immediately destroy a computer like Power Surges can, they can still damage the computer and/or result in Data Loss.

What kind of Damage can result from Brown-Out?

Motherboard Failure, Memory Failure, Hard Drive Failure & Data loss

"Brownouts place undue strain on power supplies and other internal components, forcing them to work harder in order to function. Extended brownouts can destroy electrical components and cause data glitches and hardware failure."

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What is a White-Out?

White-Out - White-Outs are periods of high voltage in utility lines that can cause lights to become brighter and equipment to fail.

Surge Protector vs UPS (Uninterruptable Power Supply)		
	Surge Protector	UPS (Uninterruptable Power Supply)
Surge Protection	Yes	Yes
BlackOut Protection	No	Yes
BrownOut Protection	No	Yes
WhiteOut Protection	No	Yes
Unattended Managed PC Shutdown	No	Yes
Power Disruption Logging	No	Yes

"Consider the fact that a single power outage on a high traffic network can stall hundreds of users, and the seriousness of power failures becomes evident. Even worse, when the power returns, it often brings after-blackout spikes and surges to cause even more damage."

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Quick Cost Calculation

Power Disruption Cost Comparison (Hardware Costs Only)	
No UPS Installed	UPS Installed

UPS Battery Backup	\$0.00	\$120.00
Hard Drive	\$150.00	\$0.00
Memory	\$100.00	\$0.00
Power Supply	\$50.00	\$0.00
Motherboard	\$200.00	\$0.00
Data Recovery	\$800.00	\$0.00
TOTAL COST	\$1300.00	\$120.00

Wrapping It Up

Surge Protectors are sufficient at keeping Power Surges from entering your Computer System, but with Power Surges only making up approximately 5% of all Power Disruptions, your Computer doesn't get the protection it requires. You need to get a device that addresses the issues of Brown-Outs, Black-Outs and White-Outs. By simply using only a Surge Protector, you are essentially leaving your computer unprotected from Power Disruptions. As mentioned above, this can be devastating not only to your computer system, but also your data. **So toss that old Surge Protector, and put in a UPS. Your computer and your pocketbook will thank you.**

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