



Having a Prosperous New Year

Before I get into 2009's first newsletter, I hope that everyone had a wonderful holiday, and hope that the New Year is prosperous for everyone.

When the phrase "prosperous new year" is mentioned, most people think of the future and what they would like to achieve. However, one should never forget the past, for it helps in steering our future. As with life, our businesses rely on the past as well. Most important of these is the data stored on your computers. This data if lost, could result in the loss of your business. A scary proposition at best.

There are 2 types of hard drives in the world, those that have failed, and those that have yet to fail. Occasionally, you may see a Hard Drive lasting in excess of four years, but the likelihood of a drive failing in those first 4 years is about 1 in 8. Here are some stats pertaining to data backups:

- 30% of all businesses that have a major fire go out of business within a year. 70% fail within five years.
- 31% of PC users have lost all of their files due to events beyond their control.
- 34% of companies fail to test their tape backups, and of those that do, 77% have found tape back-up failures.
- 60% of companies that lose their data will shut down within 6 months of the disaster.
- 93% of companies that lost their data center for 10 days or more due to a disaster, filed for bankruptcy within one year of the disaster. 50% of businesses that found themselves without data management for this same time period filed for bankruptcy immediately.
- Companies that aren't able to resume operations within ten days (of a disaster hit) are not likely to survive.
- Simple drive recovery can cost upwards of \$7,500, and success is not guaranteed.

The good news is that all this can be avoided. No matter how you choose to implement it, backups ARE a good idea, and redundant backups are even better.

Hard Disk failures occurs when a hard disk drive malfunctions and the stored information cannot be accessed with a properly configured computer. A disk failure may occur in the course of normal operation, or due to an external factor such as exposure to fire or water or high magnetic waves, or suffering a sharp impact.

Backups may consist of any of the following:

- Copying files from your PC to CD, DVD or Flash Drive.
- Using a Tape Backup device to Backup your Hard Drive (and the types that can be used)
 1. Full Backup
 2. Incremental Backup
 3. Differential Backup
- Offsite Storage solutions that are currently in place.

Although having an onsite backup solution in place is a great start in the right direction, it isn't enough. You must also have an alternate, redundant backup as well. Why you ask? What would you do if the device you were using to backup your data onto was faulty and you didn't know it. Now imagine that you found this out trying to restore your data after an office fire destroyed everything. What would you pay to be able to get that data back? Would you really want to be in that position?

Offsite backups are an excellent way to fulfill the requirement for having a redundant backup. The nice thing about offsite backups is that for the most part they are fully automated. All you need to do is set what files you want to be backed up, and viola... you're done. The nice part of this is that as long as your computer is on and has internet access, your data is safely done every night.

Some of the most popular offsite backup companies are:

- [I-Drive](#)
- [Carbonite Online Backup](#)
- [Computer Storage Services](#)
- [Calgary Backup](#)

To Recap.....

backup, backup, backup!!! OnSite, OffSite... whatever it may be. Backups are worth their weight in gold, yet some companies are unaware they are not merely an option, but a necessity. Your company has the ability to come out on the other side of a disaster unscathed, but your backup needs to be in place first!

In February's Newsletter, we will be talking about Battery Backups, what they are, and why you need one.

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