

Data Loss can be pretty SCARY

Let's think for a moment that you are working away on your computer and suddenly you get an error on your screen. You think nothing of it initially, until it locks your system up. You unplug the computer like most people do, then plug it back in and turn it on. You are then presented with an error message stating that "no bootable device is present", meaning your hard drive has just "packed-it-in". You then realize that you don't have a backup copy of anything that was on your computer!

Suddenly, your heart rate increases, and you start to panic. Your PHD Discertation, which you have worked on for months, is on that hard drive.

What would you do to get that data back? How much would you pay?

Unbeknownst to many people, Hard Drive Data Recovery typically starts at \$400.00 and goes all the way up to \$2500.00. That's right, the cost of a used car.

Every Day, hundreds if not thousands of people are put in this exact situation. Their lives are put on hold as they wait for the results from the Hard Drive Recovery Labs. For some people, it's about as stressful as waiting for the results of a medical test.

People have this misplaced trust that Hard Drives are the cure-all for lost information. Writeable CDs & DVDs typically only last up to 5 years (providing they are cared for religiously). But people don't realize that Hard Drives are no different.

S.M.A.R.T. stands for "Self Monitoring Analysis & Reporting Technology". This test is able to give the user advanced warning of an impending drive failure. A free windows-based tool called DiskCheckup can be downloaded from passmark.com.

In a study performed by Carnegie Mellon University spanning 5 years, it was found when compared to the ten most common computer components to fail, that drives were rated #1.

1. Hard Drive ----- 32.6%
2. Memory ----- 17.3%
3. Power Supply ---- 15.5%
4. Motherboard ----- 9.6%
5. CPU ----- 5.5%
6. Fan ----- 5.1%
7. Raid Card ----- 4.1%
8. NIC Card ----- 2.1%
9. SCSI ----- 1.0%
10. CD-ROM ----- 0.6%

It was found that Hard Drives had almost 6 times the failure rate of Processors, and over 3 times the failure rate of Mainboards.

What can be done about protecting your data? A number of things, really!

First off, get a back up device. Whether it be a flash drive or an external Hard Drive, it doesn't really matter. As long as your data is also stored in a secondary location.

External Hard Drives currently have a much larger storage capacity than flash drives, but flash drives offer easier portability.

Next, find a backup program that takes the USER out of the equation. ie. Scheduled Daily Backups. Scheduled daily backups perform at set times each day. This removes the human element from the equation, essentially making the process more efficient.

There are a number of programs that we use to perform scheduled daily backups for our clients. These programs require no human interaction, once they are setup. They perform flawlessly, and provide that extra little bit of comfort for our clients. In addition to providing these programs, we also custom design scripts to fit each user's specific needs, which also backup the client's data automatically.

If you would like to know more about how we can help your business, email us at info@tsgcs.ca

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