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2005 ALREADY!

- Back it up!
- Not just for spring anymore
- Update.. Update... UPDATE!
- Breathe in... Now out...
- The internet CAN help you!



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Back it up!

“Electronic Brain Solutions, How may I help you?”

-”My computer won’t boot up. It says that it’s missing the operating system!”

“Sounds like your hard drive has stopped working. It may need to be replaced”

-”**WHAT!** All my tax information and music files are on that hard drive.. I don’t know what I’m going to do”

“If you have a backup you should just be able to buy a new hard drive and re-install all your information!”

-”**BACKUP!?** What are you talking about?”

“oh boy...”

We receive calls like

this one all the time. A hard drive has failed and there is no backup and most of the data is lost. There are methods for data recovery but they are expensive and often times don’t work.

Instead of relying on someone to rescue your data, you could save it periodically yourself. You could make regular backups of important data on your hard drive and in the event of an emergency, restore your data so it is as recent as your last backup!

There are a number of ways to store your data or even an “image” of your whole hard drive. In this addition of Brain Waves, we are going to look at some of the options available to you.

Whole Drive Image

If you are looking to make an exact copy of

your whole hard drive including your operating system and all your files, you want to image the drive or duplicate it onto another hard drive. Because hard drives prices are steadily going down, this is becoming a popular option. Someone can make a copy of their hard drive onto another hard drive and if the first were to fail, they can just plug in the backup hard drive with virtually no time lost.

The drawback to this solution is that you have to purchase an additional hard drive, (this process works best if you choose a backup drive that’s the same size or larger than your current drive) and it is time consuming, taking up to a few hours to copy one drive’s contents to the other! This also makes it hard to backup your data frequently for just small file changes.

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Not just for spring anymore!

Cleaning your computer is an important part of keeping it running correctly!

Often times cleaning the outside of your computer case can be a chore, especially because the case and the monitor can collect dust as quickly as you wipe it off! Keeping the outside of your computer clean is important, but more important is keeping the inside clean. Your computer has several vents and fans to keep it running cool. Unfortunately these vents and fans can also let dust into your

computer. This dust accumulates and can block important airways or cause certain parts of the computer to have a poor connection to your motherboard. Every few months or so, open the computer case and, using a can of compressed air, blow out all the dust from the computer. Don’t use any cleaners or anything else but air, as you can cause damage! Once the computer is dust free, replace the cover and continue to compute! **DO NOT** blow air into cd-rom or floppy drives as this can damage the drives so be careful!

UPDATE, UPDATE, UPDATE

Part of taking care of your computer is keeping the virus scan up to date! Just having a virus scan installed on your computer is not enough. New viruses come out all the time and if your files for your virus scan are out of date they won’t be able to stop the intruder. It is much easier to prevent a virus than to remove one! Most virus scan companies update their files weekly, if not daily! You can check the manufacture’s website for update files. Most virus scan programs even have a built in updater! Locate the program running down by your computer’s clock and right click on it. There should be an update or connect option. Follow the onscreen prompts to keep the viruses out!

Back it up (cont.)!

Backing Up Only Data

If you are only concerned with backing up your information from files you have created, you have several options. You can purchase an array of different products that will help you arrange your data and back it up. However you also have a free one that comes with windows.

To access the backup program click on *start*, then *programs*, then *accessories*, then *system tools*. Inside the system tools folder you have a program simply called *backup*. Following the onscreen prompts, you can go into your computer and select the files you want to back up. then the program writes these files into



one large file, and then you can backup that file, either to CD, another hard drive, an external drive or whatever you feel most comfortable with.

The advantage of this is that you can quickly backup your files and save them anywhere, so even if you make minor changes to a document, e-mail or whatever, you can quickly add that to your backup.

The disadvantage is that if your current hard drive fails, you will have to purchase a new one, then re-load all your system software (including the operating system), then add your backed up files to the computer.

Other methods:

You could also just backup data yourself onto a floppy disk, a zip drive, or even a USB

thumb drive. This involves selecting the data you would like to backup and manually copying it over to the designated drive. Note that the floppy will only hold 1.44 megs which is a very small amount of data. The other formats vary depending on the model purchased.

Data backup is a very important way to be sure that you don't totally lose all of your files in the event of a major system emergency. Also remember that your data is only as current as the last backup you created. So if you have been working hard on a big project, it is better to backup often than to have never backed up at all!

And as always, if you have any questions or need any help, please give us a call any time, day or night!

"Your data is only as current as the last backup you created"

Breathe in... Now out...

A side effect of making computer chips smaller is that they run hotter. With today's chips being as small as ever, they run very hot.

It is important that your computer gets an adequate amount of airflow to keep these chips and everything else in your computer running as cool as possible.

When the temperature inside your computer reaches a certain point, the computer will start having problems such as lock ups, lost data, and eventually system failure. Most computers have built in sensors to detect when the computer is running too hot and will power down your system before any damage can occur.

You should keep your computer out of desks and workstations that have the back closed off. Your computer fans need to circulate air across the components in order to cool them properly. Hardware that is cooled correctly can last years longer than hardware that is constantly under stress from hotter temperatures.

The internet CAN help you!

Many people have expressed interest in getting more information or help with things that they have read about in our newsletters.

Well you are in luck! With each issue we put out, we add links or information (where applicable) to our website. We also keep an archive of each newsletter we send out with a

brief synopsis of each article that it contains.

Our website is a resource that you can use to get your questions answered at any-time, 24/7.

The website is set up with links on the left hand side for easy navigation, and

if you get lost in the website, you can start over just by clicking on the home link.

As with everything else, we are constantly trying to improve to meet or exceed your needs. If you find something wrong on the website or you would like something changed or added, please let us know!

