

## ***The importance of backing up your data and how easy it really is....***

***By A1 Computers And Service - 2012***

It's simply amazing just how many people are worried about losing their data. Most of those who are worried about their data, don't give a second thought to backing up their data. Even though the thought may be the same, most people are worried more about losing their data than actually backing it up – which can prove to be a downfall in the face of disaster.

The process of backing up files is done using CD's, DVD's, external hard drives, online services, or other methods to keep the data protected. This way, when something happens to your hard drive and you lose your information, you'll have the information backed up so that you can easily access it again. Data that is important, such as tax files or business records should always be backed up, to ensure that nothing happens to it.

If you are using Windows as your operating system, it will be a lot easier to back up your files. Windows has had a pretty good general backup program since Windows 95, so that it can make things a lot easier when you create your backups. If data that is stored on hard drives becomes lost, you will be able to retrieve the file from the stored backup. This is a very useful technique, although it still has to be practiced to ensure that you understand how it works. Although it may be very useful, it isn't as safe as other options.

There are better alternatives to the backup program that is built into Windows. Here are a few of the better free ones I would recommend looking into. All of them are easy to use and offer more features than the Windows backup utility. Try looking at [Cobian Backup](#), [Comodo Backup](#), [GFI BackUp](#), these are just a few of the many free programs out there to choose from.

In order to back up your data and programs in a safe and efficient manner; you'll need to use some of the more reliable methods, such as external hard drives or online service. Online Backup Services are great as the data you backup isn't left around your office; it is instead entrusted with a company who will ensure that it stays protected. There are plenty of free backup programs you can use to backup you data to CD, DVD, or external Hard Drives. You can also use a free service like [Dropbox](#), [Google Drive](#), or [Microsoft SkyDrive](#). All these services are free but offer limited storage at the free levels. All offer options where you can purchase more storage if needed. I would encourage you to give these free services a try as they are a good basic offsite online backup service.

You could also choose one of e many paid online backup services. Some of the more popular and reliable are [Carbonite](#), [Mozy](#), and [Norton Online Backup](#) just to name a few. Here is a great article by PC Magazine reviewing some of the online services. <http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,2817,2288745,00.asp>

No matter which method or methods you have decided to use for backing up your data, you'll be happy to know that they are all easy to use. CD and DVD backups are easy to create, all you need is the software installed on your computer to create the backups with. Online Services are easy to use as well; all you have to do is upload your data to a service, then log into the server anytime you need to have access to the data.

Creating backups of your data and information is the perfect way to ensure that you always have it in the event of a disaster. I would recommend a combination of methods to backup your data and to help ensure you will have you important data if a disaster should incur. Implement a good onsite backup to an external hard drive, CD or DVD and a good offsite to an online service and you should never have to worry about losing any important files again. Disasters can happen at any time, which is why you should always back up your data anytime you have something new or something that you haven't backed up yet.