

eSecurity Newsletter — Keep Your Stuff? Back it Up!

Back to school, back to work.... September brings out the hidden organizer in many of us. It's a good time to refresh our memories about how to clear computer clutter and back up the stuff that's important to us. Here's some help from the [Multi-State Information Sharing & Analysis Center](#) (MS-ISAC).

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

It's probably happened to you. You're rushing to complete an assignment for work or school when something goes terribly wrong. Desperately you try to return to your document to preserve your work, but it no longer exists. If only I would've saved/backed up my document you say to yourself, perhaps with a few expletives deleted.

What's Involved in Back Ups?

Back ups are copies of key data that are stored separately from your device. Separate storage means that you can restore your data or device to its working form. With today's ransomware threats, it's more important than ever to regularly back up devices and, especially, data that matters the most to you. You may chose from a number of strategies.

Back up Key Files Only

You may decide to select only some file/folders you want to preserve and simply copy them to your preferred storage device or medium. These may include key documents such as financial/tax records, photos, digital receipts, wills and trusts, for example.

Complete Back Ups

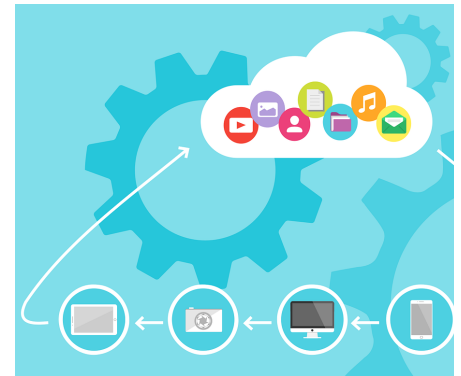
Alternatively, most devices have utilities built in that make it pretty easy to do a full system back up. It's possible to set aside a complete copy of your devices' data allowing you to restore your system to the way it was on the date you backed it up. This could bring you back up to speed quickly after an infection or attack.

Whichever strategy you choose, make regular data protection a habit you keep!

HAPPY DATA IS SAFELY-STORED DATA!

Cloud or Local Storage?

External Hard Drives and removable media, USBs and DVDs, are all common forms of local data storage you have probably heard of



before. Did you know that you should disconnect these external storage devices when not in use to avoid any malware risks?

Cloud services provide convenient off-the-premises data storage. Cloud storage is rarely free, but many vendors offer inexpensive plans for (non-commercial) home use. When using Cloud storage for work, store only public data, using approved vendors. For more guidance on cloud storage please visit: [DTI Standards](#).

Find out more about safe data storage here:

- ◆ Stay Safe Online: [Back It Up](#)
- ◆ US-Cert: [Data Backup Options](#)

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