

## Online Backup For Data Recovery And Piece Of Mind

The process of backing up one's computer data is a process that, like other forms of insurance, may seem too mundane or unnecessary to bother with - until disaster strikes and it is too late. Years ago, computer data backup software and solutions consisted of some form of external physical media, such as a CD, zip drive, DVD, external hard drive, or tape drive, plus automating software running on the computer.

When in the market for a backup solution, modern broadband internet connections, plus more affordable hard drive space, have made online backup a viable option to consider. Accordingly, numerous online backup services are now available for both additional space, as well as disaster recovery. These services generally have the advantage of not requiring the user to purchase external storage, but rather to pay for the service on an ongoing basis, as one does their internet connection.

Another advantage is that the software client's footprint is often lighter and less taxing on one's computer than running a traditional backup program. One disadvantage, however, is that the speed of the backup process is limited to bandwidth, which can make large backups very time consuming compared to more traditional external physical media. The process may be interrupted by a failed internet connection.

A large number of services allow users to try them for free, with monthly fees for subscribers beginning at around five dollars, to an unspecified limit of hundreds of dollars each annum for enterprise subscribers. Currently, one gigabyte is where available storage capacity begins at, right through to space without limits. Users are able to buy more space for storage as they need it. This differs from external media.

Some services are geared more towards the Windows operating system, or more towards the Mac operating system. As such, one can expect the restoration of their data to be a smoother process from certain services than others. Many of the online backup services also include various additional functionality, such as photo sharing through the creation of online slide shows, file sharing, and data encryption during the upload process, the download process, as well as for the data storage itself.

As with all things, hard drives will eventually fail. Similarly, a thief could walk away with your computer and its contents. Additionally, through intent or accident, it is quite possible your drive could be reformatted, and the data lost. Therefore, it is of utmost importance to do systematic backups, and to check them periodically to ensure you have a recent copy of your information.

### About the Author

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