

Online Backup: The Pros And Cons

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.

If you're in the market for a backup solution, consider more modern broadband internet connections and affordable hard drive space to meet your online backup needs. Many online backup services offer plenty of additional space including disaster recovery. The advantage of these services is that the user doesn't need to purchase additional external storage, but rather continue paying for the service on an ongoing basis just like an internet service provider.

Another great advantage is the client's software footprint is less taxing on one's computer than a typical backup program. The disadvantage on the other hand is that the speed of the backup process is according to bandwidth, which may mean a more time consuming process compared to backups completed on external physical media. The online process may also be interrupted by a failed internet connection.

Several of these services present at no cost trial, and charges launch at around five dollars monthly for a standard subscription, and go up to hundreds of dollars each year for ultimate subscriptions. Currently, existing storage space starts at one gigabyte, to unlimited space. Contrasting with external media, the user can basically purchase additional storage space as required.

The online backup services often include separate perks and capabilities, like file sharing, photo sharing, slide shows, social networking services, and encryption for transfer and storage. Some of these service's client software works better with Macs, and some of it works better with Windows. Because of this, your user experience and the integrity of the restoration process may be more satisfactory from some services than from other services.

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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