

A sound backup strategy is necessary!

The latest reports indicate that only 10% of computer users backup their data on a daily basis. This is quite a risk. If you own a business you are in a world of hurt! If you are a consumer ask yourself if it would matter if your computer suddenly went missing. All business's and most people have documents, pictures, databases, or music that's important so a sound backup strategy is necessary.

A sound strategy has three components: quarterly image copy, nightly backup of data to a local USB drive, remote backup of all data.

Windows and MACs both come with a built capability to create an image copy of the main drive that can be scheduled. Use disk utility on a MAC and BackupandRestore on Windows. On a Windows machine I also suggest you use Drive snapshot since a Windows Image can only be used on the exact same configuration it came off of. You can use the drive snapshot to restore your drive even on a different make/model computer. Store this USB drive offsite.

For local data backup I suggest a third party tool and a good review can be found on the local backup page of my website. You want to automate this and make it free from human error. Several of the top 10 include MAC and Windows versions.

Remote backup; what is this and why do you need it you ask? Where is that USB drive when the fire happens? Remote backup is nothing new and there are a lot of companies out there. Do not use Time Machine, it's terrible. With remote backup your data is backed up to a remote server(s) nightly and you don't have to think about it. It's done over the internet so initial seeding may be required if you have a ton of data.

For remote backup we suggest centraltexasbackup.com. They have servers in Blanco and Wimberley so you can actually drive over and get your restored data on a USB drive if you have a ton of data and/or your internet is slow. You can grab files from the website and multiple versions are kept.