

Cybersecurity – backups

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The most important asset of any business is data. If you lose employees, lose your laptop, become the victim of a virus or even lose the building, your business will most likely continue to operate. If you lose all your data, you have a huge problem and will practically have to rebuild the business from scratch. In addition, power loss, theft and hard drive failures are real issues and business owners need to be prepared to deal with them.

As a business owner, keeping data safe is a top priority. The first step for any company is to have multiple copies of important files. Making a second or even third copy of your data is a simple backup solution. Although there are many backup solutions, moving your important files off your computer onto a flash drive, external hard drive or a cloud storage provider like Google docs, Microsoft Onedrive or Apple's iCloud is as easy as it gets.

The second step to backups is to make sure the copies are in a different location from your original files. If you use a thumb drive or external hard drive, don't keep it in the same place as your laptop. If you take your laptop home, leave the hard drive in the office or vice versa. Using an online storage solution will ensure you have a copy offsite and off of your computer. Two birds with one stone.

Backups aren't limited to the important data on your laptops. Many organizations have servers that run and keep data for the accounting, creative or any other departments and need the solution that is best for that company. At the very least your solution should be automated and backed up to tape or online.

When you use the simple solution above its free and easy but there is one problem. Its manual and you have to remember to do it periodically. There are programs specifically created to make the whole process automatic. Current Windows and Macs have backup solutions built into the software. Use them ([Windows Backup](#) / [Time machine](#)) to back up your files and create a system image and a recovery drive. Some great software designed to automate the backup process and they both require an external drive.

For even more convenience, there are third party products like Mozy, Carbonite and Backblaze which are designed to backup and store data offsite daily. You don't have to remember to copy files, push them to the cloud or a thumb drive and keep them off-site. These solutions also make it easy to restore data. Whether its one file or your whole laptop and in some cases your servers ... the process is less painful than going through a bunch of thumb drives to find the file you're looking for.

In the event of a disaster you need to get the data off of your preferred solution. In order to make sure this goes smoothly, a restore test should be run at least once a year no matter which solution you choose.

To summarize, in order for backups to be effective we need to follow some basic rules.

1. There must be more than one copy of the data.
2. Copies of data can't be in the same location.
3. Copies of your data need to be accessible when needed.
4. The data needs to be restorable.

Backing up your corporate data is vital and only one tool for keeping your corporate environment safe. Let us know what you would like to learn more of when it comes to using

technology to help your business succeed. MISITS is a full service IT company servicing the Hudson Valley and beyond. If you have any questions or comments, please reach out to us at info@misits.com or find me on twitter [@jmlucien](https://twitter.com/jmlucien).