

Your Crash Plan

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What will we do if our hard drives crashes? Will be panic knowing that all of our documents and pictures are lost forever unless we can somehow get them off of that damaged drive? Or will we be at peace because we had a plan and know nothing is lost?

I hope it is the later for you. Let's talk about some of the FREE options you have and get a plan together so you do not have to worry any more.

Backup just means making a copy someplace else. You can copy any file on your computer to another device like a flash drive, an external hard drive, a CD or DVD, or to a storage area in the cloud. If you lose a file you can locate it on your backup device and restore it to your computer by copying it back. After restoring it the copy still remains on your backup device.

You can backup files (make a copy of them) to another partition on your internal hard drive. However, that helps when you remove a file by mistake or decide you want a previous version instead. It does not help when your hard drive gets damaged or your computer stolen.

If either of those two scenarios happens, all you have is your data. You have to purchase a new hard drive or a new computer. Then you have to install the operating system and all the programs you had. This assumes you remember what you had and have the CD's to install them. We are talking about hours and hours of work. And if you had to purchase a new computer it might even mean dealing with a new operating system, Windows 8.1.

Creating an image means saving a copy of the entire hard drive in a compressed format on an external hard drive. The software does this in a way that you can access individual files for recovery or duplicate the original hard drive by restoring the image onto a new drive. In a matter of minutes or a couple of hours you are back running.

Since we will probably not be imaging our computer every day it is good to use one of the cloud backup services to backup our data each day. Then if failure occurs we can get the system back using the latest image. Once that is completed we can access our data in the cloud and restore the latest files to our hard drive bringing us back to the point before the crash.



<https://www.code42.com/store/>

Yes there actually is a backup program called crash plan! We have talked about Mozy and iDrive in the past. But this one is a little different. It allows you to backup to another computer. Perhaps

one of your children out of state and they can backup their stuff on your computer. You can also set it up to backup to an external drive automatically assuming you leave it connected.

For \$4 a month you can backup to their servers (in the cloud) with unlimited storage. That is less than a dollar a week. That is a real deal! More than 1 computer? Then it is only \$9 per month for up to 10.



<http://www.mozy.com/free> and please use code GFBU22 for an extra 250mb

Mozy backs up your files (you can choose the folders/files you want) periodically during the day. You can also set it to backup locally as well perhaps to an external drive.

Here are the class notes for the session we did in January 2013 on Mozy:

<http://rwevans.com/cccg/BackingUp.pdf>

2gb free. 20gb more for \$2 a month. 50gb more for \$5.99 per month. Add additional computers for \$2 per month per computer.



<https://www.idrive.com/?uid=U6K1S9L3C3> (includes code give me extra space)

With iDrive you get more free space to start and the ability to backup multiple computers with that same free account. See more of the features at

<https://www.idrive.com/online-backup-features.htm>

They give you 5gb for free. Like them on Facebook and get .5gb more. The like them on Twitter and get another .5gb. And finally setup and use the service for an additional .5gb. That is a total of 6.5gb for free and more than enough for all my critical files. If you get your friends to sign up, you get extra free storage for your free account. And like DropBox, you can share any of your backed up files with others.

If that is not enough you can get 150gb for \$49.50 a year.

You set the folders and the time to backup each day and it just happens. When it finishes you get a display on screen of how many files it backed up and an email in your inbox to let you know it did the backup.

Other Options:

These are not the only cloud storage options. There are many FREE ones available and you can add them all up to over 100gb if you want to take the time to organize your data. Might be easier to just pay the price, set it up, and forget it. There is a site called JoliCloud that makes it easy to see all your folders on all your cloud storage in one place. More on this at a later date.

Here is just a small sample of the other sites adding up to 29gb of free space



Amazon. 5gb free. <https://www.amazon.com/clouddrive>



Dropbox: 2GB <http://tinyurl.com/b87mha8>



Google Drive: 15GB <https://drive.google.com/>



SkyDrive: 7GB <https://onedrive.live.com/>