

# Cry for Help

Computer Tips & Tricks for the novice to the advanced.

## **Backups.**

I've mentioned previously the need for backups, but we should look further at this very important topic. Backing up computer data and files is getting easier and cheaper. To backup files simply means to take a copy of the information onto another medium. This used to mean to a floppy disk which could hold 1.44Mb. Then came CD's which could store 640Mb and DVD's holding 4,700Mb (or 4.7Gb). Nowadays you might use a Flash Drive or Memory stick which can also hold up to 4Gb. Similar to a Floppy disk – you simply COPY the selected files to the new medium compared to the BURN process that was required for CD's and DVD's.

All of these options are good, however there are also Hard Disk solutions. Modern computers are equipped to take 2 hard disks and are normally supplied with only one (called C:). Hence you could have installed a second hard disk (D:), holding up to 400Gb (that is a huge capacity) and use this for holding backup copies of your important files. *But it's still in the one computer, is that really a backup?* – I hear you query. Yes. Because it is still a different medium, and the situation we are guarding against is a hard disk crash or a computer failing to boot up. If this happens, you can simply remove the second hard disk, place it in another computer, and all your backed up data is still there. Even if you already have 2 disk drives – you can even use an EXTERNAL Hard Disk Drive. Either way – keep backing up.

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