

Cry for Help

Computer Tips & Tricks for the novice to the advanced.

Uninterruptible Power Supply

Ever had a power blackout or your switchboard flick off in the middle of updating important work on your computer? While this is a bad method of shutting down any electrical equipment, your computer will probably re-start without too much drama. However all your changes since your last save will be lost. Worse still is when the power spike that caused the blackout, has also done damage to your computer.

More simply referred to as a UPS, an uninterruptible power supply can be a real lifesaver when you are using your computer for business or other important work.

What is it? It is a mains power combination battery and battery charger. So that when the power input stops, it keeps delivering power to your computer long enough for you to save your work and shut your computer down cleanly. The unit keeps itself fully charged and is generally maintenance free.

Typically a UPS that gives you 5-10min (depending on your computer configuration) to shut down your software is enough, so for around \$130 it is cheap insurance.

You can of course get bigger units that give you longer battery time, but for most small business and home users 600VA is suitable for one computer and monitor.

In combination with a system of good data backups there is no need for any data loss these days.

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