

# **Cry for Help**

Computer Tips & Tricks for the  
novice to the advanced.

## **On-Line Backup**

Storing your backups on-line sounds good in theory, but there is a little more to it.

Having someone else securely store and look after your business and private documents could be great. It would mean that even if your computer got stolen or died unexpectedly, you could simply get a fresh copy of the information down from the “cloud” and continue working as if nothing had happened. We don’t have to know where the computer is that is physically storing your files – or how many copies of your data they have – simply that the company entrusted with your files are responsible to make them available for you whenever you need them.

However, such a system has its flaws.

1. Who is the company storing your data? And will they still be around in 10 years when you need them.
2. Do they have great security so that no one else can get to your data? Or that they won’t be able to read the data if they do.
3. Your internet upload speed. A good ADSL plan might offer 8Mbps download and 800Kbps upload (kilo bits per second), which equates to 360MB per hour. So if you have a large quantity of data (eg GigaBytes), this will take a while.

To overcome the quantity of data issue you could choose to only backup certain files or folders. Whatever you decide, certainly consider on-line backups as an option, but make sure it is right for you.

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