

## Rich's Ramblings for May 2008

### BACKUP! BACKUP! BACKUP!

**Ok**, I have your attention. Let's talk about why and how to take care of this major worry.

Some of the reasons that you should be backing up:

1. When your hard disk crashes, as it will, (eventually) especially when you least expect it .
2. Keeps your family from lynching you; when you tell them that you lost the only copy of your daughters/sons wedding pictures.
3. Prevents serious weeping and wailing when you discover that your precious documents are all gone.

Here are a few methods for you to backup your computer files:

1. Copy all your files to CD/DVD Rom disks.
2. Keep copies of all your documents on 3 ½" disks in your basement or spare bedroom.
3. Buy USB fobs and backup to these keychain devices.
4. Buy a spare internal hard disk and backup your important files to this drive, or get one of those USB/firewire portable hard disks.
5. Install a network attached storage device and backup to its hard disk.
6. Set-up Microsoft Home server and it will backup everything to its hard disk.

Reasons why these methods are not a real warm fuzzy.

1. All your eggs seem to be in one basket. (your residence/office)
2. If you are one of the unfortunate ones who live in a tornado zone, your residence could be demolished.
3. You could live in a flood zone. (nuff said)
4. A house fire destroys your residence or office.


Are you getting a trend here?

There is another alternative that will make you feel all warm and fuzzy (Predicated on the premise that you have a high speed internet access line, Dial-up is not an option.)

I have been using an on-line service called MOZYPRO for several of my small business clients. I sleep comfortably at night knowing that their data is safe and available if a disaster strikes.

Offsite storage is the best method for backup, If your backup is on-site and something happens, like a disaster or thieves, then you are SOL (**S**omewhat **O**ut of **L**uck). Some businesses have been cleaned out of their computers including their portable hard disks and tape drives by thieves.




I read about  in a couple of old fashioned printed rags;



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and , both spoke highly of Mozy. I decided to investigate and found that Mozy has several options, some free and others reasonable.

They have a free version for home users to backup their computer over the internet to Mozy, limited to 2 gigabytes of data. Mozyhome free is a good and cheap option. It will give you a warm fuzzy when it is done.

Available at <https://mozy.com/registration/free>

Mozyhome has an "All you can Eat" for \$4.95 per month for your home computer. Mozy supports *Microsoft Windows 2000, XP, and Vista, and Apple Mac OS X 10.4 or higher.*  
<https://mozy.com/registration/unlimited>

All of this backup is done when your computer is not busy, I plan all my clients computer servers to backup at 1am in the morning.

Mozypro for business's

The charges for servers are:

Server Licenses: \$6.95 + \$1.75/GB per month

For Workstations the charges are:

Desktop Licenses: \$3.95 + \$0.50/GB per month

There is a discount for prepayments:

Get one month free with annual subscriptions or three months free with biennial subscriptions. They have reduced rates for more than one workstation in an office.

I found that the tech support team at Mozy are very accommodating and helpful with getting you started and on-line. I have demonstrated to my clients that Mozy works, I renaming a file on the local server and then using the easy to use Mozy interface restored the old file in a very short time. They were convinced and developed a warm fuzzy about their data. Additionally the data is encrypted. You can use their encrypted keys or create your own encryption keys. (You had better keep your encryption key in a safe place) Mozy only backs up changed or new files so after the initial backup, the backups proceed much faster. It even backs up open files with windows server 2003 and greater.

Their web page at <http://mozy.com/> is a good place to start.

I highly recommend Mozy, (I have no financial interest in them.)

Rich Schinnell is retired and still keeps his fingers in the pie as a small business consultant with several clients who feel that they are in good hands. He is a past president of Capital PC User Group and is one of its founding members. He bought his first IBM-PC back in the real early 1980's and still gets excited about computers. He still writes programs using the interpreted BASIC language. GWBASIC.EXE runs quite well under Microsoft Vista Ultimate and Windows server 2008 in a Command (DOS) window.

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