

Ok, here we go again on the importance of:

BACKUP! BACKUP! BACKUP!

I have had at least three friends who have had problems with their computers and to their credit, they actually believed me when I told them how important backups are.

They had backed up their documents and data to those really cheap USB drives that most all the stores sell. The prices for a 1-2 Gigabyte thumb drives are less than \$10. I remember paying over \$800 for a 30 MEGABYTE drive back in the 1980's. ☹

On to bigger and better things now.

I was talking to Toshiba Direct about buying a new laptop to replace my older Toshiba. I had configured it with 2 hard disks, one being a 64 Gigabyte Solid State Drive (SSD) and the other being a 320Gigabyte 7200 RPM SATA drive. I wanted to make sure that it had at least four gigabytes of RAM memory and a separate video board with one gigabyte of video memory. I chose a 16" screen and good audio. The price was around \$2300 which I had expected. When I was on the phone to them, I remembered that if I waited until after the 21st of June, I would get a free upgrade to Windows 7 when it ships in September. So I did not complete the sale. After all: a free upgrade would be nice and I could wait a few days.

Then; a few days later, I received a flyer in the mail from Micro Center, a local super computer store that moved into the store in Rockville after Compusa went belly up. They have a pretty good selection of parts and computers as well as Televisions and Apple stuff. I was looking thru the flyer and spotted a Toshiba laptop exactly like I had priced at Toshiba Direct on-line, and the price was almost \$1000 cheaper. I jumped at the chance and went to the local Micro Center where the salesperson said that they were expecting them in a week or so. That evening I went on the web to Micro Center's web site and there the identical laptop was listed, bigger than life. I jumped and ordered it with pickup at the local store. I received a email a little while later, with the confirmation. They did not charge credit card but they did verify that it was valid. I went to the local store the next morning and I was happy that they had my computer ready for me. It cost \$1377

total which also pleased me, especially in relation to what Toshiba Direct wanted to charge me.

The specifications on the computer are:

Toshiba Satellite A505-S6979 Notebook PC

Intel Centrino Core 2 dual P8700 (64Bit)

4 GB DDR2 SDRAM

64GB Solid State Drive

320 GB SATA 7200RPM hard disk

Slot loading DVD double layer R/W drive

16" WXGA truBrite display

ATI Radeon 4650 Video board with 1GB DDR3 Video RAM

Intel blue tooth, Wi-Fi link 802.11a/g/n

Ethernet Gigabyte card 10/100/1000

3 USB 2.0, E-Sata and 1394 and rgb port as well as a HDMI video out.

Windows Vista Home Premium w/free Windows 7 upgrade.

Delivered price \$1377.00

Of course it took me a while to uninstall a lot of the "free" or "Trialware" (Many people call it crapware) from the computer but once I had done all this, I had to transfer all of my data from my old Toshiba to the new one.

I highly recommend that if you use Microsoft Outlook, then you need the ABFrecover program to completely backup your outlook e-mail, contacts, calendar and most other settings on your old computer so that all you have to do on the new one is to install the ABFoutlookbackup on your new computer and restore. Everything including all of my messages from 1987 to the present are now on the new computer along with all my calendar information, contacts and memo's.

ABF Outlook Backup is the name of the program and it costs \$39.95 but well worth it. Especially if you have more than one E-Mail address and lots of messages as well as a few hundred contacts and calendar entries.

<http://www.outlookbackup.com/>

One reason that I know how well this program works is that a couple of my small business clients had purchased new computers and they needed to move their Outlook files to a new one. I bought the program for them and decided that I also needed it when I bought my new computer. I probably saved about 5+ hours of aggravation and work to get the outlook files to the new computer and the program did it in less than 10 minutes. It even brought my browser favorites over to the new system. Well worth it even though I did not get a discount.

I had to move all my client web page source files, personal files and files that I had downloaded, to my new machine which was easy as I have external USB hard disks, 250GIG for less than \$100.

I use WS-FTP professional as my FTP program and fortunately I was able to copy the [ftp.ini](#) files to the new system in the correct directory and after downloading a newer version of WS-FTP for Vista, it worked great.

My old standby GWBASIC (That is the Basic language interpreter from old DOS days) works on my new computer. I just can't wait for Windows 7 to arrive and get it installed, but that's in September. I have Windows 7 RC installed on my older Toshiba after upgrading from Vista Ultimate, It just works great and something tells me that Microsoft has a winner there. Check my May 2009 Ramblings on my web site for my story on installing Windows 7 RC. <http://schinnell.org> is my site and you can see all of my past CPCUG columns there.

One option that I can very heartily recommend is to **first:** create the recovery disks for your new computer, that normally takes 3-4 DVD disks, but it is well worth it, especially if you do like I sometimes do, mess things up so bad that that is the only way to recover your system. Being a techi has its pitfalls and yours truly is no exception. I messed it up so bad that I could not even get to a safe mode screen. I won't tell you what I did but consider my background and that should suffice.

All in all, I am very pleased with my new laptop and after 5 or 6 Toshiba's , I would buy another one.

Rich Schinnell is retired from the USN and Vitro Corporation. He still has several small business clients who depend on him to keep their office networks and work stations humming along. He is one of the founders of Capital PC User Group, Inc and served as President as well as other offices for over 25 years. He can be reached via E-Mail at schinnel@cpcug.org or as a last resort at his home phone (301) 949-9292.