

"Local service, global strength"



Want to be Free?

Not long ago, wireless communication seemed like something amazing and futuristic, but today the ability to go wireless is very real. If you're tired of falling over cables and having messy wires everywhere, or you are looking for connectivity on the go, wireless technology is the thing for you.

Almost anything that you can plug into your computer no longer needs the use of wires to create a connection, and this capability can be great for business and home users, depending on how mobile you want to be. To start, we'll talk about the mobility of some of the things you physically use.

Keyboards and mice have been available in wireless form for a few years now, and new and stronger hardware is constantly being produced. You can buy yourself a wireless keyboard and a mouse that are very stable: no signal problems or slow response times anymore!

Mobile phones, PDAs or other mobile equipment can all be connected to your computer wirelessly, normally over Bluetooth or infrared. You can synchronize these devices with your tasks, calendar or e-mails on your PC. These services have come a long way recently and are very user friendly. Just having the right hardware (such as a Bluetooth adapter) on your PC and the right synchronization software will allow you to walk into your office with your device, and your PC will automatically recognize it.

Wireless networking has become very popular. The technology has grown and the connections have become very stable. Now there is no need for wires all up the walls and ceilings connecting to your server. A wireless network can have a wide enough connection radius to connect all the PCs together in one building without any cables. A wireless capability is a useful tool to have on your laptop. Many cafés or businesses have wireless internet available for use: all you need is a wireless-enabled laptop and you can be online within seconds.

Your internet connection can be wireless, too. A growing number of ISPs (Internet Service Providers) are now offering wireless internet in standard package deals, and with the new technology, you will not need to worry about the line incessantly dropping on you.

All of this technology is very useful and gives you a great deal of mobility. However an important thing to realize is that if you can connect to a device wirelessly, someone else can too, so security is very important. Never connect to a public wireless internet connection Without having properly setup your firewall and antivirus protection, never allow others to connect to your wireless network or internet connection, and always keep your software up to date.

Connecting is a simple incorrectly it problems. Computer will be out with any security requirements.



yourself wirelessly job, but if done could lead to many Your local Troubleshooter happy to help you connection or

Disaster

Wow we certainly have had our share of disaster in communities around us. Thinking about all the things, people in the affected areas have lost and how this has affected their lives is over whelming. Their computers will get replaced some sooner then others. However, these peoples lives are impacted forever.

On a much smaller scale we see disaster impact people on a regular basis. The single most complicated component in your computer is the hard drive. This component stores the thing that is not easily replaced, your data, pictures, and work. Most people who use computers today have heard that they should backup their data. Yet, many still do not and others have incomplete solutions. Why is this? Sometimes it is because of the time involved, for others it is not knowing how to get started. The steps below should help you setup a backup to prevent disaster from affecting you.

1. Get organized: First gather all of the software that came installed with the computer. In most cases CDs will be shipped with the computer. In other cases you may need to run a utility provided by the manufacturer to create them yourself. Store these in an dry climate controlled area that can be located easily. Next, organize your critical data to support easy backup. The goal here is make your backups efficient in both time and media used. Backing up temporary working file as well as programs that do not change wastes critical time and space. Some business data can be shared between computers and placed on one computer. A backup of this critical data can then be done on a single computer. Create a structured directory layout that allows you to clearly select the critical data to backup.

2. Identify your fault tolerance: Defining your fault tolerance is two part. First how quickly must you be up and running. The second part is how much can you afford to lose. This will dictate how frequently you need to Backup. Ok, now really give this some serious thought. The lower your fault tolerance the more it is going to cost you. Also the lower your fault tolerance the more likely you need to have a professional come in and setup your backups. (More next month on fault tolerance)

3. Get to know your critical Applications. With some applications like Word, Excel, PowerPoint each time you create a new

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document you are prompted to save the file. It is pretty clear where you have stored that file. Other applications like Outlook, Outlook Express, Quicken, Quickbooks and others use a database and do not prompt you to save it with each change. These databases are often missed during a backup. It is important to understand where these databases are stored.

4. Automate the backup. We are busy people, under normal conditions we do not use the backups daily so it becomes easy to put the backup on the back burner. Soon that backup has not been done for months. There are several software packages that will automate the backups. To name a couple, Retrospect by Dantz, BackupMy PC by Stomp, and BrightStor Arcserve by CA. There are also services such as DR. Backup

6. Choose a Media. At this point we know what we are backup up and what we are using to automate the backup, it is time to choose the storage media. Select a media that is compatible with your backup software. You also want one that will store the entire backup without having to swap in new media.

Cd's hold 650 to 700 MB

DVD's hold 4.7 GB

Double Layer DVD Hold 8.4 GB

External Hard come in many sizes

Tape hold 20 to 80 gig.

5. Store you Backup off-site. Ok remember the software we collected earlier. Make a copy of the software and ship it to someone that is more than 20 miles away. Regularly ship your backups as well. If you use a service such as Dr. Backup, the backup is already stored offsite. There are also service that will pick, deliver and store your backups.

6. Check the status of you backups. Once it is up and running make sure that it continues to run by checking the status.

7. Verify your back up. From time to time test the backup and restore a file, or all of them.

Choosing a Surge protectors.

You know that you should your plug computer

and other electronics into a surge protector, Right? When, you bought your computer and looked at the surge protector you probably saw some that were \$4.99 and others \$40.99. What's the difference? One surge protector is just as good as the other, right?

Well, I am sorry to say, that not all surge protectors are created equally. So, what surge protector should you buy. Look for the following features:

1. Joules Surge Energy Rating - every surge protector will have this rating. The higher this number the greater the projection. At a minimum look for something that it rated 800 or higher.

2. Filtering - Even the best power from the utility company fluctuates in voltage and amplitude. Additionally, vacuum cleaners pencil sharpeners, fans, and anything with a motor further this fluctuation. This dirty power is measured in decibels and it is called noise. This can cause un-necessary wear and tear on your electrical components, as well as some very odd behaviors in your computers. Oddly not every surge protector provides filtering/protection. Look for an EMI/RFI filtering between 35-70dB.

3. Indicators - surge protectors do wear out. Look for one that has an indicator showing the protection is working. As well as one indicating an overload condition. These are usually LED lights. One that shows faulty wiring exists is a nice to have but not required.

4. Circuit Breaker - A resettable circuit breaker on the surge protector.

If you can find the below ratings on the package than your doing good. Generally you will not find them the packaging.

1. Clamping speed or surge response time - This is measured in nanoseconds. The lower the number the quicker your surge protector reacts to a surge. More than 2 to 3 nanoseconds is too long.

2. Clamping Voltage - this is the voltage at which your surge protector starts to work. It is measured in Volts. It should be in the range of 150-250 volts.

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Dr. Backup - Online Backup Solution
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2 - Year signature update
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