5 Ways to Backup Your Data

The data on your hard drive is the most critical item inside your computer, and the only item which can not be replaced. It may be an unwanted hassle and expense to replace a defective memory module, monitor, or processor, but there is no replacing data once lost.

In addition to the possibility of a simple hard drive failure, the threat of internet borne worms and viruses has become an increasing risk to data loss or corruption. Although you may not be able to provide absolute protection to your hard drive, there are various ways that you can ensure that the data on your hard drive is protected. Five methods of backing up your data are summarized below.

1. **USB Flash Drives**

   Although I am not recommending that flash drives be used for the actual data storage, they are a convenient means of transferring data from one computer to another. Important files can be quickly loaded onto Flash Drive, and transported to another computer for safe keeping.

2. **CD and DVD Writers/Re-Writers**

   The falling prices of CD and DVD writers/re-writers have made them a staple of just about every modern computer. These devices can typically be found installed in a computer case, but external devices supporting USB are available for greater flexibility and ease of installation.

3. **External Hard Drives**

   As the name might imply, external hard drives are generally the same type of drive you might find inside your system, but housed in a smaller, external enclosure of its own. The enclosure will feature at least one data interface (such as USB), and the capacity is only limited by the size of hard drives presently available and the user's budget.

4. **Additional Hard Drives**

   By simply adding an additional hard drive to you system, you can protect yourself from data loss by copying it from your primary drive to your secondary drive.

5. **Online Storage**

   Online services, such as Carbonite allow users to upload their files to a server for safe keeping. This is a convenient way to backup your data wherever an internet connection is available.

Although not a comprehensive list of options available for backing up your data, the five items listed provide some simple and relatively affordable means to ensure that your data is not lost. Data loss is an extremely frustrating and potentially costly situation, but one that can be avoided.