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“Oh No! I’ve lost the family pictures!!”

By Dan Allen

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As an 11 year veteran in the computer industry, by far the most troubling concern I’ve witnessed with home computers is losing the family pictures and videos. The widespread adoption of digital cameras and camcorders are a great blessing in many ways. However, one simple hard drive crash without a backup and... BAM!! - there goes the family history – last year’s Christmas, Kaitlyn’s 2nd Birthday Party and Zak’s first soccer game all could be irretrievably lost forever.

I was recently reminded of this last week after explaining to a customer that his home laptop would have to be wiped clean and reformatted because of a virus. His immediate response was “Well can you save all the pictures!!??”

Many families have developed a false sense of security as their comfort level with their computers has grown. Usually Dad or Zak has at least a passing interest in technology and perhaps has occasionally backed up files to DVD and everyone thinks they are protected. The problem however is making sure the steps are taken regularly to get it done. More often than not it is forgotten about until it is too late!

My recommendation is to use a backup solution that will run automatically every night so the family data isn’t reliant on Dad or Zak to remember to run the backup! (I like to prevent family squabbles). My favorite is a device that acts as a home server. It is unique in that most inexpensive backup solutions will only backup the data on a computer. This device not only backs up the data, but also the whole Windows operating system, programs, drivers, updates etc. Basically everything on the computer hard drive gets copied off nightly! Whew! Geeks call it an image. As an added bonus, it will run the backup on up to 10 personal computers in the home on a nightly basis.

Although this new server backs up everything on every pc in your house, most data losses occur because of a hardware failure. It is critical that you protect yourself from fire, flood and theft by subscribing to an off-site backup solution. I recommend an online solution like Mozy or Carbonite for this purpose. With most of these companies, up to 2 Gb of data can be backed up for free. However, most homes have a great deal more than 2 Gb worth of pictures alone.

Call the Computer Surgeon today at 330.352.7460 to discuss special pricing on this home server solution!

Get Helpful Information:

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