SOFTWARE TO GO ®

Since 1983

March 2008

Partner News

Ten Simple Tips to Prevent Data Loss

If you'd like to reduce your chances of requiring data recovery, consider giving some of these free or low-cost tips a try.

1. Back-up your critical files. With the ability to store data on CDs on a weekly or monthly basis, a small investment in a stack of CDs will save you from losing your critical documents, files, priceless images and MP3s.

2. Run an Anti-Virus Program. Viruses get into your computer a variety of ways; by reading an infected attachment in your e-mail, by sharing files or by visiting websites that take advantage of security flaws to compromise and destroy your data.

3. Use power surge protectors. A power surge, either from the power company or a lightning storm, is one of the most common occurrences that can damage your data and potentially cause a computer to fail.

4. Experience required. Never attempt any operation, like hard drive installations or hard drive repairs, which you don't have experience with. If you don't know how to install a second hard drive, rebuild a RAID or transfer data it would be best to get expert assistance before you accidently cause yourself data loss.

5. Shut down your computer correctly. Always quit your programs before shutting down your computer. When you quit a program, it saves vital data and then exits the program. If you just turn off your computer without properly exiting your applications and closing your files, you run the risk of loosing your data.

6. Never shake or remove the covers on hard drives or tapes. Please don't disassemble your hard drive. In nearly all examples of this, data is usually not recoverable once an inexperienced person attempts to 'investigate' where that 'strange clicking noise' is coming from. Leave the diagnostics to a data recovery specialist who has experience with all types of hard drives and knows how to perform a successful data recovery.

7. Store your backup data offsite. While it is always a good idea to backup your critical

data, if your data is stored at the same location as your server and there is a natural disaster, a fire or flood for example, odds are that you will still require data recovery on the hard drives, or tape restoration to get your data restored.

8. Beware of Rogue/Suspect Anti-Spyware Products. Never approve a scan from a pop-up screen warning you of a possible threat. These are scams to glean your money for removing "spyware" which that program just installed. Don't fall for this!

When checking the health of your computer and running cleaning software, be careful allowing 'No-Name' Spyware Removal programs of unknown, questionable or dubious value as anti-spyware protection. Check the Spyware Warrior List to see if that application you are about to install on your computer really does do what it says it does or not.
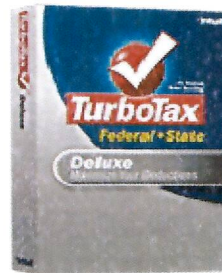
9. Be aware of your surroundings. Keep your computers and laptops in safe and secure locations from accidentally getting knocked over, dropped, or spilled on. Laptops, while convenient to use, are often dropped or spilled on requiring emergency hard drive data recovery. Padded cases and drinks with spill proof lids will save you hundreds of dollars.

10. Backup your critical files. Worth mentioning again. Using CDs or even an external USB hard drive for data storage can potentially save your business. It will also keep you from having to hire a data recovery service to perform hard drive data recovery on your hard drive or server.

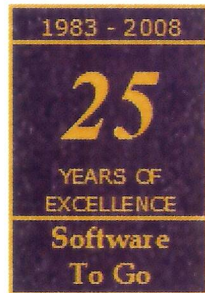**What ever the need, we have the solution**

With six different levels to match your needs, TurboTax will make April 15th a breeze this year.

No tax jargon just easy-to-answer, plain-English questions about you, your income and your life. TurboTax Deluxe, Premier and Home & Business will save you time and aggravation by only asking questions that pertain to your unique tax situation.

TurboTax provides answers to commonly asked tax questions on every screen. With Live Community, (included FREE with TurboTax Basic, Deluxe, Premier and Home & Business) you receive live answers from tax experts and fellow TurboTax customers who are just a click away.

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YEARS OF
EXCELLENCE

**Software
To Go**

What is your computer worth?

A few years after you buy your computer not much. Computer equipment loses value at roughly 2% per week. What does this mean to you? What you purchase today is worth 2% less this week, 2% less of that total next week, etc.

Don't invest in computer hardware like you would real estate.
Buy it like a car, to use it.

If you are tired of the "super store treatment" come into Software To Go, we know the products we sell and offer solutions and support.

If you paid $1000 for a computer today, next year it will be worth $300 and the year after that $100. Three years from the date of purchase, it is worth about $30. This estimation is close, but not exact.

Desktop computers have lost the most value in the past few years where laptops have maintained the most as many people have moved to portable computers.

What causes this devaluation?

Software To Go is committed to providing the best possible service and support to our customers and the community.

Faster processors, larger hard drives and less expensive memory coming out each year. Three years ago the hottest computers were P3 933mhz computers. Now, the hottest computers are close to 4Ghz. One can be sure there is a faster processor around the bend.

New computers being produced for less money. Most computer manufacturing is accomplished in Asia where labor costs are extraordinarily low. A basic home computer five years ago was $1500. Now, one can buy a new computer for $400 - $700.

We look forward to many more years of growth and the challenge of keeping up with advances in the computer industry.

Oversupply in the used market from company shut downs, IT departments phasing out equipment faster and more efficiently and large reorganizations in the past few years have flooded the used market.

How can I find out the value of my computer or find its selling price?

Try eBay. The best way to find its value or to get a quick valuation is by selecting closed prices so you can see what has been sold and for what price. Do a search of your Make and Model number. You will find a list of comparable items. Sort by highest price and read the green (items that have sold) and you will be able to attain a fair market valuation.

Software To Go Provides a Number of Maintenance and Support Programs

If you choose to sell your computer or laptop on eBay, keep in mind that fixed pricing receives higher pricing than auction pricing. Price your laptop at the mid-range of all the fixed priced listings that you may have seen on eBay.

***Designed to Fit the
Needs of Almost any
Business!***

Also, you can find your computer's value at <u>Orion Blue Book</u> or <u>Used Price.com</u>. These are two good sites offering pricing information for all types of electronics.