

Why Backup Your Files?

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2022/11/06

Why backup your files? Because all the files on your computer could become inaccessible at any time due to computer failure resulting from hardware failures, power surge, software hacking, robbery, or other natural disaster such as hurricane Ian.

What files do you need to backup? Any files you cannot easily retrieve from other sources. The most common are personal files such as pictures, email, medical records, financial records, etc.

How do you backup files? I use a free Windows utility program named [robocopy](#) which will copy files fast from computer disk to external hard drive. It only copies files that have changed since the last copy, so the copy is faster than a simple copy.

You can buy a 1 TB external hard drive with USB connection on Amazon for less than \$50. I have 4 which I use to backup 2 computers daily, and also make extra weekly backup to rotate off site. The daily and weekly backups take less than 10 minutes.

I have had several computer hard drive failures over the years and having recent backup to copy to new hard drive has been a

real-life saver. The family pictures are perhaps the most valuable to me.

There are other backup alternatives such as subscribing to backup service such as <https://idrive.com> which offers cloud back of 5 TB for about \$60 per year. This backup can run in background on daily basis. One downside is that if your computer crashes, you will have to find an alternate computer to access the cloud backup files, and they may take time to download.

Buy an external hard drive and start backing up your files daily.