



Disaster Recovery

Part 1- Desktop Disaster Recovery – Your computer will eventually crash. Be Prepared.

This white paper discusses how to reduce the severity of a computer crash. Solutions to prevent data loss and speed up recovery times are addressed.

It is only a matter of time before your computer crashes

Have you every asked yourself the question ‘What do I do in case my computer crashes? How do I get all my information back?’ It is only a matter of time before you experience a computer crash. To prepare for the eventual crash you need to be aware of a few facts.

Crash Scenarios

A computer crash could involve any combination of the following:

1. Physical Hardware failure
2. Operating System corruption
3. Software Application corruption
4. Data loss or corruption

Any or all of the above could be the cause of a computer crash.

For now, let’s address physical hardware failures, specifically hard drive failure. One of the most common causes of a hardware-related computer crash is the failure of the computer’s hard drive. A hard drive failure can result in the total loss of your operating system, your installed software applications and some or all of your data.

Reduce the impact of Hard Drive crashes using RAID

The easiest way to reduce the impact of a catastrophic hard drive failure is by implementing a RAID solution to insure data integrity, even after the loss of a hard drive.

RAID stands for ‘Redundant Array of Inexpensive Disks’. The simplest explanation of RAID is that you spread your data over multiple hard drives and hardware and/or software allows you to ‘rebuild’ your hard drive data in the event of the loss of one or more of your computer hard drives.

The quickest and easiest RAID solution to implement is RAID 1. Also called ‘mirroring’, RAID 1 is when your computer has 2 hard drives that are ‘mirror’ images of each other.

Your computer’s data is written to both of the hard drives at the same time so that each hard drive is an exact duplicate or ‘mirror’ of the other. If one hard drive fails, the other immediately takes its place.



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By creating a 'mirror image' of your laptop hard drive on a regular basis, coupled with regular data backups you will be able to get your laptop computer back up and running quickly, in the case of a hard drive crash or other operating system corruption.

Maybe not as quickly as if you had a true RAID 1 mirrored system, but it is still better than the alternative of total data loss with no chance of recovery whatsoever.

More Disaster Recovery Solutions to Follow

In this segment we dealt with hard drive failures and some RAID 1 mirroring solutions. Next segment we will deal with full system mirroring solutions to answer questions like 'What do I do if the whole office building burns down and takes all my computers with it? How do I get all my information back'?

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