

Three Ways to Back Up Your Data

There are many things which can go wrong with a computer which may cause you to lose your data. Keeping your data protected is essential, since having it stored in a single location makes it very fragile. You can lose data due to accidental deletion or something as simple as a power failure which corrupts data on the hard drive. Fortunately, backing up data does not normally have to be complicated or time-consuming. Keeping your data reliably backed up does not require you to have any expensive, specialized software installed in most cases. It is always a good idea to have at least one backup of your most important files. The following information provides some guidelines to help you keep your data safe.

One: Back Up Your Files to Other Drives

Backing up your files can easily be done using DVDs, CDs, flash drives or an external hard drive. You can also have a separate hard drive installed in your computer in which you store a complete system backup. This is not the best idea for backing up your most important files as a major system failure could affect that drive as well. DVDs and CDs are extremely cheap, but backing up data to these disks is time-consuming and often not very efficient.



One of the most convenient and fastest ways to back up your data is by using an external flash drive. A USB flash drive is fast and effective, yet capacity is often a limitation. For best results, you should consider using an external hard drive to back up all of your important files.

Two: Back Up Online

Backing up your files online can, if done correctly, be the safest way to store your files. Even if you lose your computer and everything with it, your files will still be safe online. Files can be uploaded to Internet-based drives such as Windows Live Skydrive. Smaller files can be uploaded as draft email attachments on any email provider, but this is not particularly efficient. Backing up data online can be ideal if you don't have a great amount of data that needs storing. For larger amounts of data, backing up online can be more complicated due to space and speed limitations.

Three: Windows Backup and Restore Center

The Backup and Restore Center is a built-in component included in all versions of Windows from Vista upwards. This provides a free and convenient way of backing up. If you want to have a complete shadow copy of all of the data on your hard disk, this is one of the most convenient ways of doing it. You will need to have an adequately large internal or external disk for this, however. Depending on the specific edition of Windows that you have (e.g.: Home Premium or Basic, etc.), there are some limitations to this feature. The more advanced versions of Windows from Home Premium and upwards allow for automatic backup, as well as backup to network drives. **T**



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How to Disable Error Reporting

Every time a program hangs or crashes in Windows Vista, the system prompts you to use Windows Error Reporting (WER) in order to send information to Microsoft about such a failure. Here is a simple trick on how to disable this nagging "feature":

1. Click Start.
2. Click Run... and type gpedit.msc
3. Navigate to Computer Configuration > Administrative Templates > Windows Components > Windows Error Reporting.
4. Double click on Disable Windows Error Reporting.

This trick doesn't work on Windows Vista Home and Premium. To disable the WER option on these Windows versions, just follow the following trick:

1. Click Start.
2. Type Problem Reports in the Search field and press Enter.
3. Click Change Settings.
4. Click Advanced Settings.
5. Click Off under Advanced Settings for problem reporting.

Another Way to Speed up Windows Performance

There are many ways to increase your Windows Vista (and XP) performance to speed whatever you do on your computer. One way is to increase your Operating System's performance by tweaking the way your PC uses the System Code and Kernel Drivers. If your computer has got a lot of RAM, it is possible to force your machine to keep the system code and driver in physical memory to boost its performance. You can apply it on any machine with more than 1 GB of RAM. Here is the step-by-step procedure to follow:

1. Click Start.
2. Click Run... and type regedit
3. Locate the following Key: HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Control\Session Manager\Memory Management
4. Now Locate the following subkey DisablePagingExecutive and assign to it the following value: 1 (default value 0).

From now on, Windows will keep kernel-mode drivers or kernel-mode system code in memory without swapping to disk.