



BACKUP – Avert Disaster Before it Strikes YOU!

(coming soon to a neighborhood near you)

What's that strange clicking noise coming from my hard drive ??? Do you smell something funny over by the computer ??? Why is it taking so long for my computer to boot up ??? I knew I should have updated my virus program ??? What's this blue screen with a bunch of geek speak, computer odes and something about scanning my hard drive ???



I think I'm in big trouble

????????????????????

It's the hurricane season in the Atlantic and Pacific. However, many of you are reporting different kinds of personal disasters from other parts of the world.

During the past month I have helped several of you recover from hard drive crashes, files that were accidentally deleted or transferring your collections to a new computer. Some of you were lucky and were able to recover your lost files. Others discovered the simplicity of installing Heritage Collector on a new computer and then using the Restore function to copy all

the collections to your new Heritage Collector Install. Some of you were completely unprepared and had to start over because you lost everything!!! – *what an unnecessary and preventable disaster!*

Here's a gentle little reminder from me -

BACKUP TODAY

or on the next holiday.

(No funny business this time because this is a very serious circumstance and not something to joke about!)

Humor me by taking a moment to answer the following questions:

Question. When was the last time you backed up the collections in your Heritage Collector software?

Within the last week.

One month ago.

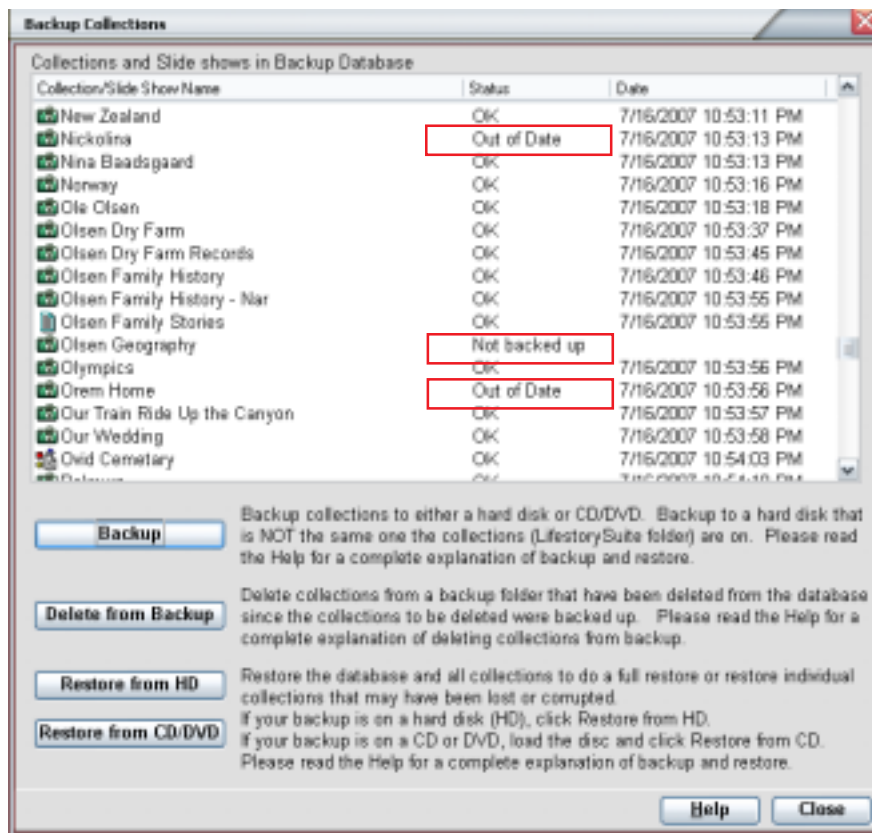
Longer than a month.

Answer. You should have backed up within a week if you have made any additions or corrections to any of the material in Heritage Collector. No more excuses that it takes too long. After making the first backup it only takes minutes if you are using an external hard drive and Heritage Collector.

Here's how to check the backup status of your collections:

1. Start Heritage Collector.
2. Select the Collections menu (top left)
3. Click the Backup/Restore option.

You will then see a list of all your collections and backup status of each collection. You may then click the Backup button and select the Incremental Backup to update your existing backup.



Screen Capture of Backup Status of Collections

Question. Where are your backups stored?

Answer. CD/DVD backups should be stored in a cool dark place standing up. A hard drive

backup should be stored in a place where it will not fall to the floor or be banged around during an earthquake or during normal activities.

I would suggest that an external drive should not be running all the time unless it's being used. All hard drives eventually wear out and there is no need to subject the drive to a power surge



from lightning or other electrical issues in your home. Turn on the hard drive only when you need to backup or access files on the drive.

Internet storage is OK and another option. However, I'm fanatical about having complete control over my backups. I want to be able to see, touch and work with a backup anytime.

For added security, you should have at least one complete duplicate backup somewhere else. The backup could be in a safe, bank vault and/or the home of one of your children or a relative.

Question. Are you using gold archival quality CD/DVDs to make your backups?

Incorrect Answer. I'm using high quality CD/DVDs

Correct Answer. I'm using gold, archival quality CD/DVDs.

Just because the CD/DVD looks gold does not insure it is a real "gold" CD. Chances are very good that it's not real gold unless it states it is "gold" or archival quality.

Go to the Registered Users web site and consult the Tips and Suggestions section. Refer to article [Gold Archival](#)



[DVD - Notes for](#). This will provide some links to sites on the internet where you can purchase gold archival quality CD/DVDs. I'd suggest you purchase gold DVDs since they are about the same cost as CDs but have much more storage capability.

Question: Which side of the CD/DVD should you protect?

Answer. Be honest! Most of us, (me included) do not handle our CD/DVDs properly.



DO NOT PLACE the label side down when the CD is on your desk so the reflective side is facing up. That is the data side of the CD. One little scratch will ruin the CD!



Most of you are *i n c o r r e c t l y* protecting the mirrored or reflective side of your CDs.

DVDs are the opposite. They have an extra

layer of plastic that protects the data side of the DVD. However, DVDs are much more sensitive to scratches on the reflective side so protect the reflective side of the DVD.

NOTE. I'm not suggesting you place your CD/DVDs unprotected on your desk. I know that most of you are doing that – it's life. However, it's always best to keep the CD/DVDs in their plastic cases or at least a paper insert to protect it when it's not in your computer.

Consult Chapter 8 "Preserving and Archiving" page 183, in your Digital Family Guidebook for more complete information on the proper care and handling of CD/DVDs.

Question. Do you turn your computer off during an electrical storm?

Answer. I do. Why? I've heard a number of awful stories from others who lost their computer system when lightning struck their house or nearby. You can also be injured. A lightning bolt can cause an electrical spike that may ruin both the computer and monitor. I don't think it's worth the chance to you or your computer to be at the computer when lightning is near. Some of the people who lost their computers live within a mile of my home and we all have underground power service. It could have easily been my home the lightning struck.

Question. What kind of backups do you have?

Answer. CD/DVDs and external hard drive. I recommend you have two different kinds of backups – external hard drive and CD/DVDs.

There's erroneous information circulating that you should no longer use CD/DVDs because the media does not last. It's true that some CD/DVD media does not last but that is not a valid reason to not use the media. Here's another equally bad assumption. Car wrecks happen each day so are you going to stop using your car? The news has reported airplane crashes during the past 18 months so I guess that eliminates flying as well. Have you ever had a hard drive go bad? That means you should not use hard drives either! We must be reasonable.

There are currently no backup mediums other than granite that last and that's a little hard and expensive to work with!

I'd suggest multiple or duplicate copies of CD/DVD backups. Chances are in your favor that both backups will not fail at the same time. Making CD/DVD backups on a regular basis should "refresh" or update the status of your backup library. Over the years I've had only two CDs go bad after 18 months of proper storage.

Question. Are you using a quality surge protector?

Scary Answers. I don't know. It has three outlets. Does it matter? I don't need one since I have new wiring in my home.

It's faulty thinking to assume that a power strip with multiple outlets and an on/off switch is a surge protector. Study the specifications on the package before buying a surge protector. A cheap surge protector gives a false sense of security and it's not the place to save money since all the electricity comes through the power strip and then into your computer.



Remember that a surge protector will probably not save your computer if lightning hits your home or close by. Even if the surge protector has a lightning guarantee for full computer replacement, you will not be able to replace all the information that may be lost on the drive.



I recommend an uninterruptible power system (UPS) that also has surge protection.

This provides the necessary surge protection and battery backup to keep my computer up and running for about 20 minutes in the event of a power failure. During the last four years, my UPS has saved me from losing what I was working on about 5 or 6 times since there was no warning each time the power went out.

Bottom line – Make backups weekly, use a surge protector, or consider getting a UPS as added protection.

Copyrighted Material

Please remember the newsletters are copyrighted. If you would like to include a newsletter or excerpts in your newsletter or publication, please e-mail me for permission.