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News You Can Use

LIVING WITH REDUNDANCY

It is said the three most important things in real estate are location, location, location. For those who rely on computers, the three most important considerations are backup, backup, backup.

In our last issue (01/06) we discussed the importance of redundant backups for critical data. Well, I have taken a dose of my own medicine.

I subscribe to several computer (geek) magazines and an article this past month dealt with the topic of, you guessed it, backing up your files. They even covered the process of using an old computer and changing it into a backup server for the purpose of backing up files on the network.

Now, as many of you know, I already ask you to save important files to the network, save to your desktop computer and save to an external source as well (USB drives, CD, floppies, online, etc.) You just can't beat redundancy.

Well, I asked Cody Sand, one of the practicum students, if he

would take on the project of creating a backup server. We had an older computer donated from the library last fall that was used in the technology office for minor tasks. We downloaded some open source (free) software, purchased a 400 GB (big) hard drive and got to work.

After two days of getting things setup we had a backup server for a total out of pocket cost of \$200.00 (hard drive).

Now, in addition to the tape backup on the network, everything is backed up to our dedicated backup server. Nothing like redundancy to let a person sleep at night!

THOUGHT FOR THE MOMENT:

“Do not confine your children to your own learning for they were born in another time.”

-- Hebrew Proverb

LET'S REVIEW

Common Technology Terminology

Here are some common terms that are used when navigating the web. I thought it would be good to list a few just to be sure everyone has a handle on the topics we discuss. Hope it's useful.

Peripheral: any external device connected to a computer. Examples include keyboards, USB drives, printers, speakers, etc.

Blog: Slang for Weblog. A blog is a publicly accessible (or by invitation) personal journal for an individual. A blog is similar to a personal diary, but shared over the web.

Bluetooth: Radio technology that connects electronic devices without using a cable. It is commonly used to exchange data/voice between devices such as cell phones, printers, digital cameras, portable game devices, etc.

PDF: Portable Document Format. A proprietary file format developed by Adobe Systems for the purpose of sharing documents regardless of the program it was created with and regardless of the software used by the recipient. To view a .pdf file, a user needs the free Acrobat Reader program which can be downloaded online.

VOIP: Voice over Internet protocol, also called IP Telephony, digital phone, and Internet telephony. A specification using various technologies used to allow users to transmit telephone calls over any IP network, but for average users, specifically the Internet.

Ethernet: A system of wired or wireless connectors and software that connects computers together. The type of network used at the school.

Remember, if you need any assistance- let me know (jambrosia@edboqhs.org). 'Till next time... *Joe Ambrosia*