

# Re: Backup

---

*Source:* <http://www.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/alt.computer.security/2006-02/msg00025.html>

---

- *From:* Borked Pseudo Mailed <[nobody@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:nobody@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Wed, 1 Feb 2006 14:13:38 -0700 (MST)
- 

nemo\_outis wrote:

> Backing up to tape, CDs, or DVDs, while feasible, is a PITA. Tedious and  
> tiresome procedures are the enemy of the iron self-discipline needed to  
> regularly make backups. For that reason, I put convenience high on the  
> list. Accordingly I recommend backing up to HD - preferably a removable  
> one (either get a "caddy" HD system for \$25 or so, or, even better, use an  
> external USB drive - it's best to store the drive offsite or at least some  
> distance from the computer).

That has got to be one of the dumbest paragraphs you've typed to date. First you claim traditional backup methods are a PITA, when they're not. Unless you consider things like swapping media at the end of the day or when a "change the tape" idiot light comes on some sort of major undertaking I suppose.

Then you "advise" readers to use a backup media that's exactly as vulnerable to compromise as their working media is, opening your backups up to not only malicious attacks and other system failures, but those lazy, incompetent users you belude to above who can't change a tape when told to do so. You know they're going to want to use "Drive Z" to store all those MP3's and shit. Suddenly your "backup" media is just another drive with copies of some of your other data on it. Not really a backup at all.

You also completely miss the "all your eggs in one basket" problem. There's a very good reason for doing varied incremental/full backups and using numerous media Nemo. Shit happens. And when you need those backups but your "hard drive" solution is corrupt or fails you're toast. If your tape from yesterday fails, you use the prior one. You may still lose some data, but you're not rebuilding all of it.

Then, if throwing stones at users and suggesting they defeat most if not all of what making backups is about, you flip flop back to making your whole crippled "solution" an even BIGGER pain in the ass. You claim it's too much trouble for people to change tapes or CDs on a regular basis, but you tell posters they should take an even more more fragile media and store it off site somewhere. Like they're going to drive 20 miles every day just to retrieve their USB drive, wait for backups to complete, then take it back to storage again.

Yeah yeah yeah..... you're about to launch into some tirade about how you meant this and I don't understand that to defend this unconsidered answer the same way you try to defend all the other dictionary inspired but technically inept advice you've given, but the simple facts of the matter will remain even after I've granted you that last word.

Hard drive backup solutions are less secure and no less a PITA than any

## Re: Backup

other solution if they're done properly. Hard drive backups are also going to be less reliable and more expensive if done properly. All in all, hard drives are a very poor backup media that promote and enable very poor backup practices. Not a serious consideration at all unless you're better funded and staffed than most small to medium size businesses, and certainly almost all individuals.