



Delaware County
Chamber of Commerce

Business Connections

Promoting Business and the Economic Well-Being of the Region

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Bizz Buzz

I THOUGHT IT WOULD NEVER HAPPEN TO ME



Of course you hear of businesses that have been destroyed by fire. From time to time I thought about it, but it never dawned on me that the adjoining business could catch fire and the fire would spread to my business. All my client information from the past 17 years was gone. So too were all of my financial, personnel and inventory records. It was going to take me months to reassemble all the information. While doing so, I ran into a computer consultant who told me that I could have avoided all this if I had used a modern, automated backup system. He told me what to look for.

Automatic Operation

Modern systems operate automatically. You set the time and the frequency for the backups and the computer does the rest. No longer would I have to worry whether our admin had remembered to change the tapes and taken it home. Or the time when she was on vacation and I forgot to do it.

File Selection

Next, he told me that the system should allow me to pick which files I want backed up. Yes, there are files that don't need to be backed up- like your temporary files that accumulate every time you go on the web. They can clog your computer to the point where its performance is affected. Additionally, with most systems you are charged for the amount of data you back up, so you want to back up just the important stuff.

Encryption

This sounded like overkill - right out of the CIA. However, he explained that if we used our old tape system or burned a CD, and it

was lost or dropped, anyone could pick it up and get all the data. A modern system automatically encrypts the data so no one can read it, even if they get a hold of it.

Secured Storage

The final thing to look for is that the data is stored in a secure facility. After the data is encrypted, it is sent over the internet. Even if someone were to intercept it, they couldn't read the information. And he told me that in case of "an event", all I'd have to do is get to any internet-connected computer to restore my data.

I asked when would be a good time to install the system. "Now," he said. If I had only known!



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