

Title:

Data Storage Media ~ A Guide to Selecting Media For Storing and Backing Up Computer Data

Word Count:

1703

Summary:

Not so long ago computer data was backed up onto floppy disks. These days there is a bewildering

Keywords:

computer data storage, media, backup, flash memory, zip drives, compact disks, cd, dvd

Article Body:

Data, or information stored on your computer, can either be held on fixed disk drives inside t

Magnetic Storage

Magnetic Storage: Hard disks, floppy disks and digital audiotape are examples of Magnetic stor

The downside

- The magnetic impression only lasts for around five years
- The capacity of most removable magnetic disks is too low for many types of files

Optical storage

Optical Storage holds information in digital form that is written and read by a laser. All CD

The upside

- Increased capacity: one Optical disc can store the same amount of data as over 500 dis
- Durability: they last up to seven times as long as Magnetic forms of storage

Flash Memory (Solid-State Removable Storage)

Solid-state memory (or Flash memory) is a high-performance plug-and-play storage device that o

Backup

Backup is the copying of files onto portable media so that if your computer crashes, data won't

There are two options- Local or Internet backup. The following is a list of Local backup optio

- Diskettes
- Zip Drives
- CD's
- DVD's
- Flash Drive

Internet Backup

Another backup option is sending your files to an Internet site for safekeeping. If your compu

Backup Defender- www.backupdefender.co.nz

My Backup- www.mybackup.co.nz

N.B. The author does not recommend or endorse any of the above service providers.

Diskettes and Zip Drives

Diskette

A Diskette is a 3.5-inch removable magnetic disk. The older version, the floppy disk, is 5.25

Ideal for

- Those who use their PC for personal finance - the diskette enables you to retrieve cheques
- Projects that need to be continuously backed up such as a film script, as it is a cheap

Not so good for

- Some newer computer and laptop models that do not have a diskette or floppy drive installed
- Large amounts of data as diskettes don't have a great storage capacity

Zip Drives

A Zip drive is a small, square shaped magnetic disk that is ideal for backing up your PC. The

Ideal for

- Duplicating your entire disc drive
- Archiving
- Storing graphic images or other large files
- Transferring large files
- Keeping certain data separate from files on your hard disk

The downside

- They seem to be a fleeting technology - most computers do not have a Zip Disc drive installed

Compact Disks

There are different standards of CD's that have different capabilities. Just to confuse us there

CD-R

CD-R (Compact Disc - Recordable) is a CD that can be recorded to only once. It usually holds 700

Ideal for

- Making music CD's
- Storing photos
- Storing permanent data

Not so good for

- Transferring files as they can only be used once

CD-RW/CD+RW

A CD-RW (Compact Disc Rewritable) and CD+RW can be recorded onto as many times as desired. Data

Ideal for

- Transferring files
- Holding temporary data

Not so good for

- Holding important permanent files-in case they are accidentally deleted

Double Density CD (DDCD)

This disc has a much greater storage capacity than an average CD-R or CD-RW.

Ideal for

- Backing up
- Storing archival data

Enhanced CD

Enhanced CD (E-CD) is an audio CD with CD-ROM data added. CD-ROM data is added in the space not

Bridge Disks

A CD-Bridge disc holds extra information on a CD-ROM XA track. The disc can be played on either

DVD (Digital Versatile Disk): More than movies

Although DVD's have become more associated with video, they can also hold audio and computer data

A range of acronyms is also used to distinguish between the different types and capabilities of
DVD-ROM

DVD-ROM (Digital Versatile Disc - Read Only Memory) is similar to a movie DVD, but is designed

The upside

- Larger storage space ~ hold more data than a CD
- Can be filled with nearly everything; video, music or computer specific data
- A base speed of 1.32 megabytes/sec

The downside

- Many older computers do not have a DVD-Rom drive installed
- Can be recorded on only once

DVD-Audio

DVD-Audio (DVD-A) is designed for audio data and high-quality music. Its storage capacity is s

DVD-R

Like the CD-R, the DVD-R (Digital Versatile Disc-Recordable) can be recorded on once.

The upside

- A DVD-R can contain an assortment of information; video, text, audio and computer data
- A DVD-R can be played on your normal DVD video player but remember, if you have additional
- A DVD-R is read at the same speed as commercially made DVD's

DVD-RW and DVD+RW

Similar to the CD-RW, a DVD-RW or DVD+RW (Digital Versatile Disc ~ Rewritable) can be recorded. DVD minus and plus are just different versions with the same functionality.

The Future of CD/DVD Storage

The majority of the technology industry predicts that soon DVD's, with their larger storage ca

HD-ROM (High Density-Read Only Memory)

HD-ROM uses a more precise particle beam to write data. This enables information to be written

Flash Drives

A Flash drive is a small portable memory stick that holds anywhere from 1Mb to 1GB of data. It

The upside

- Durable - more so than CD's or DVD's
- No need for batteries or a separate power source
- Convenient - your computer should recognize the additional drive as soon as you insert
- Ideal for backup
- Larger storage capacity than many other portable devices
- More portable than ZIP drives, CD's and Diskettes
- Quick transfer rate (approx. 1Mb/sec)
- Edit, rewrite, delete as many times as desired
- Help desk personnel can use Flash Drives as a portable toolkit that includes system up

The downside

- More expensive than other portable devices
- Viruses - The portability and compatibility of the Flash Drive increases the chance of
- Theft - a Flash Drive can make it easier for data to be stolen from an unlocked PC
- Little Security - the size and weight of the Flash drive makes it very easy to misplac

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