

## **Back Ups Made Simple.**

How would you like to be able to backup your entire hard drive and have a spare in case you get corrupted or catch a virus. If you feel comfortable installing or changing hard drives, you can get a USB External Hard Drive Enclosure, also called kits, that allow you to install or change the Hard Drive.

The USB External Hard Drive Enclosure at CompuUSA cost about \$20. It is less expensive than other models and has a front panel power switch, power and activity indicator, features not found on most other External Hard Drive Enclosures.

<http://www.compusa.com/applications/SearchTools/search.asp?keywords=External+hard+drive+enclosure>

Then you can shop for Internal Hard Drives which can usually be found on sale for about 50 cents a Gig after rebates. You can now install an (internal) Hard Drive in this External Enclosure and use it to back up all your files... much easier than reading, writing and storing CDs or DVDs.

Also, using a cloning program such as Casper XP or Ghost, or Acronis, you can copy (clone) your entire hard drive operating system to this USB External Hard Drive. Unlike other copy programs, Casper XP will clone you entire Hard Drive to a USB External - and the Hard Drives don't have to be the same size. You can even use a smaller, slower HD as a backup as long as it's big enough to hold the data.

<http://www.fssdev.com/products/casperxp/>

If your hard drive crashes or gets corrupted, just install the Cloned Hard Drive in your computer and in about 5 minutes, you're back in operation - exactly like you were when you Cloned your Hard drive. Of course, data added to your computer's hard drive after the clone was saved will not be on the clone unless you add it periodically.

Also - while the Cloned HD is in the External, you can still read / write (non system) files and use it to backup newer data.

The possibilities seem endless Instead of storing many CDs or data DVDs as backups, I have a couple of spare Hard Drives that hold everything and are ready to install when needed.

Sorry - Laptops use a physically different and use much more expensive Hard Drives. But, when using my laptop, I copy everything I save to a USB external hard drive.

As most new PCs no longer have a 'floppy drive', it is impractical to try to back up Windows onto floppies and at 1.44MB per floppy, it might require 500 floppies. I even consider it dangerous to backup to CDs. I feel much better copying important files to an external hard drive.

If you have purchased a new computer and have no easy way to copy files from the old computer to the new one, you can always attach a group of the files to an email and send it to yourself. It may require many emails to send all the data and pictures. Do not open the email in your old computer. Rather, open them in the new computer and Save them to folders in your new computer.

**CRITICALLY IMPORTANT: When you purchase a new computer MAKE SURE that you get a Recovery Disk or that you use the information in the computer's manual to CREATE a set of Recovery Disk. IF your computer crashes, you can usually use the Recovery Disks to get up and going again.**

**Don't just depend upon the Recovery disk installed on your new computer to get you up and running...what if you can't get to that Recovery drive???**