

BACKUP AND RESTORE

Q. What do you think of the Acronis Image as a backup program?

A. I have an older version of Acronis. It's a good program, but I have not used it as I do NOT want to have to RESTORE the backup in order to get to info stored. I want the info readily available at all times, day or night. That is why I have elected to use an external drive.

I save all the data created by me directly to subfolders in the MY DOCUMENTS folder in my external hard drive...not to my computer's C: drive. My external hard drive (350gig) has been partitioned into 3 drives:

M\: for my data,

N\: for my pictures and music.

O\: for Genealogy.

All text data is saved to my M: drive

All Music and Pictures are saved to my N: drive and all Genealogy is saved directly to my O: drive on the external hard drive.

I can access any file momentarily by going to one of the 3 partition drives on my external hard drive . Another added feature of doing this is that when I go away from home, I can take my external and access any file by plugging it into a USB port of my laptop

For those times when I just want to have a bit of data to use in any computer, I will copy that data to a flash drive. It can be plugged into any USB port on any computer and used as though it were on my on computer at home. I do this when I teach a class, for instance.

In the past, I have used Norton's Ghost to backup a hard drive, and I've used the old Windows backup program to backup data but I found both to be time consuming and cumbersome to restore, if they would restore at all.

Since I have the install CDs of all programs I use, I don't worry any longer about a crash. If my computer crashes, I simply plug my external into another computer such as, my laptop or my husband's computer, I'm up and away within minutes as my important programs are on both computers and the data is all on one of the drives of my external hard drive.

I've found it to satisfy my needs much better than trying to backup a whole hard drive to save programs, data, pictures, etc. While backup and restore is supposed to be THE way to go, I never found ANYONE who was satisfied with the way a hard drive restored. I like 'my way' and have the happiness of knowing that while I'm working and saving data that it is being separated from this computer which could crash any day, any minute as I am demanding that it do all kinds of things.

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