

Acronis from Virginia Mauldin of the VCC

I use Acronis 9 to clone (make an exact copy) of my hard drive onto an external drive. Then if I want to replace a dying hard drive or upgrade to a larger c hard drive (I've done both) I disassemble the external drive, remove the drive, remove the c drive in the computer and connect the clone. (that process really is easy). Since it is exactly the same, life goes on as before. I can also update the clone from the c drive from time to time by dragging and dropping the newer files from the c drive onto the clone in the external drive using Windows Explorer.

1. attach the external drive and verify in Windows Explorer or My Computer that the system is seeing it.
2. Call up Acronis program and tell it I want to clone a disk (you can also make images or back up with Acronis also but making a clone is just as easy and all the installed programs are preserved)
3. The Acronis program walks me through choosing the source drive (c drive) and the destination drive (the external) and then I just walk away, checking back from time to time that all is progressing.
4. When Acronis says it is 100 per cent finished, I verify in Windows Explorer that some files, like documents, are just like the current c drive before disconnecting the external.

I make two clones on two different external drives about every 6 months and put one at another location away from my house as a failsafe against a catastrophe like fire or tornado or such. I can update the clone on the external from my c drive from time to time but after I have installed or eliminated some programs I reclone since it is easy so that I have a drive ready to install and use if necessary.

I like being able to change out drives and continue with all data and programs intact if something happens to my c drive or I want to upgrade to a larger drive.

I accumulated three external drives cheaply by watching the paper for good sales several years ago. Of course the external drive must be the same type (IDE or SATA) as your computer to be able to switch the drive with the one in the computer. When I started all this all computers were IDE and so are my externals. Now most computers and no doubt externals are SATA.

I keep a small 2.5 inch external drive connected to my computer all the time. It came with a backup utility on the external so my computer syncs and backs up the files I choose continually.

Thanks, Virginia. This is very good info. I have Acronis and have used it to create a mirror image of Charlie's hard drive. Jmax

