

DISK IMAGING VS. REGULAR FILE BACKUP

What's the Difference?

Beginners' Kaffee Klatch
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September 29, 2007

Regular file backup programs are fantastic for backing up personal files such as downloads, documents, emails, pictures, bookmarks, and the like. Regular file backups are also a great way to archive files onto a more permanent location (such as CD-R) in order to save space on the hard drive.

The flipside is that a regular file backup program is not capable of backing up the Operating System. In other words, if your hard drive crashed or if Windows suddenly became inoperable, the only way to resolve the issue would be to format your entire computer, reinstall Windows and all your applications, and then restore your backed up data files. In all, that might take 6 to 8 hours to complete this process (at best)!

You may wish to use regular file backup to archive your most critical files on a regular basis; but, for those truly disastrous situations [often as a result of a spyware infection, virus, or something that you downloaded recently that didn't install / uninstall properly], you will want to use a Disk Imaging software product to backup and revert your entire system to a previous healthy state ... often within minutes.

What is Disk Imaging and why should you have it?

Disk imaging software is used to make an exact image of your hard drive, including your Windows operating system, your programs, and data files, to another hard drive.

Disk imaging is far superior to Windows System Restore and can revert your computer system to a previously healthy state within minutes. Disk imaging can also transfer Windows from a smaller hard drive to a larger one -- without the need to reinstall Windows.

Two great disk imaging programs are:

Acronis just announced the latest release of their award winning imaging utility, **Acronis True Image 11.0 Home** product. This is a significant new version of this best of breed imaging utility. The many new features of this release make it the most powerful and complete imaging utility on the market. This product will protect your important computer information from hard drive crashes and the

damage that viruses and faulty software can cause. Copies of this new release can be ordered from www.usergroupstore.com for \$29 (regular retail price is \$49). That includes a training CD that will show you the “Perfect Approach” you should be using with this product.

Casper makes imaging your Windows Vista, XP or 2000 hard disk a snap. Use Casper to keep a complete and fully bootable image of your system. If your system hard disk fails or becomes corrupted, boot your computer directly from your imaged hard disk and you're up and running again in seconds. Schedule the imaging process to be performed at virtually any time. Casper can even perform the copy in the background while you continue to use your computer. The program also makes upgrading your system hard disk to a larger hard disk a breeze. Casper runs entirely from within Windows, and intelligent wizards guide you every step of the way. (\$49.95 to buy, free 30 days to try.)

http://www.download.com/Casper/3000-2248_4-10678859.html?tag=lst-0-1