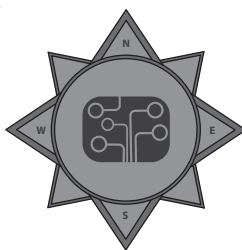


BACKUP AND DATA PROTECTION

Well, Cragman, you live in the information age and it's all an idealistic utopia where nothing should go wrong ... except we know it will. As far as your files and data, it's not a question of if you will lose them but when you will lose them. Expect it to happen and plan accordingly.

FLIP OVER FOR YOUR NEXT CHALLENGE



EARN THIS NUGGET

- Assess your data and create a protection plan to keep your data safe. Also bear in mind, you'll want to keep your method fluid as new technologies emerge every year.
- Share your plan with your parents and implement as your budget allows.

So we have established that the hard drive on your computer, the portable storage that you use, the cloud, or whatever else you will use will fail given enough time. I have even lost my data using one of those expensive online storage services that guarantees you secure storage. Thankfully it was one of several places I had my files backed up.

- The quick and easy backup is to use some sort of portable storage device, even a thumb drive is sufficient. Of course, it could get lost, broken, left in your jeans pocket and go through the wash. But as a backup, not your only storage of a file, it can be effective
- A better form of backup will be a server or similar device that has redundancy. This will make two or more mirrored copies of your data on individual drives. If a hard drive goes bad (not if, but when) you have not lost data. These are usually called RAID drives (redundant array of inexpensive disks).
- Using the cloud, Dropbox, or other online storage is a good idea. But as always, you don't want this to be your only copy. Things go wrong.

For my personal use, I have my hard drive on my computer, a RAID server, and then a large portable drive that I keep at another location in case of fire. I know you may not have more than a few documents and some images now. But throughout your life that will grow. File it so you can find it and have at least two reliable backups that you regularly update.

