



MAC FACTS

from

Mac Help Desk

SUPPORT, SALES, TRAINING & SERVICE

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A Message from Dru

Wishing you and yours a happy and safe Thanksgiving. As we sit before a meal, whether large or small, on Thanksgiving, please take a moment, however brief, to say a prayer of thanks. Despite everything that may be happening in our lives, whatever threats or terrors; loss of work or loved ones; success in business or relationships; ups; downs; goods; bads; for better or worse we live in the greatest nation this world has ever seen. We live in a nation that was founded on the concepts of 'life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.' We live in a nation that recognizes that each person be allowed to worship in the faith and the manner of their choosing. We live in a nation that is often divided, but unites to help its own and others of the world. We live in a nation where might doesn't make right and that all citizens have an opportunity to become whatever their destiny chooses. We live in a nation that may not be perfect, a nation that has a dynamic constitution (and a dynamic Constitution), and a nation that is a beacon of hope to every people locked in countries whose idea of human rights is allowing you to live for another day to serve the State. So take a moment with family and friends and count your blessings and to try to share a bit, however small, of our health, wealth, good fortune, with those who are less fortunate.

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The office will be closed on from Wednesday November 23rd through Saturday November 26th for the Thanksgiving holiday.

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Party time? Live music enlivens any party. If you're planning a holiday gathering, I have just the band for you - LoveSong. According to *Dallas Music Weekly*, "LoveSong is one of Dallas' premiere small bands." For more info, or to book an event, go to <http://www.machelpdesk.com/lovesong>

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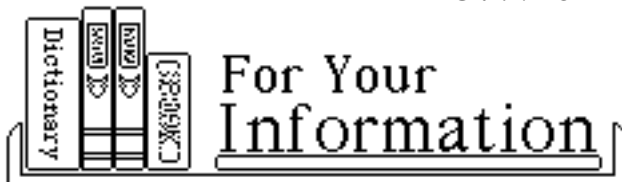
Apple Corps of Dallas needs you to P-A-R-T-Y! Saturday December 10th, 9 am - 1 pm. Richardson Civic Center. It's our annual Holiday Party, Gaming Get-Together, and Swap meet.

Come have a glass of cheer, meet lotsa great Mac folks of all ages (just like you), and shop (and swap) for Mac stuff. Best of all it FREE! So bring the entire family. For more info go to - <http://www.acd.org>

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Need a great gift for the upcoming holiday season (or any season, really)? **iLoad your iPod**, our iPod music loading service now offers Gift Certificates! Go here for more info - <http://www.machelpdesk.com/imls.pdf>

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Backup Your Mac's Files. Your Guide To Saving Data.

By Alexis Kayhill

There are more ways to backup your Mac's important files than ever before. The Mac360 guide covers everything from easy to difficult, cheap to expensive.

Do it right and save your files. Do it wrong and suffer. Don't do it at all and suffer more.

Over the years we've all probably lost some files, some data on our computers. Perhaps we simply misplaced a file, couldn't find it, and moved on.

Worse, some users have hard drives that go wonky and everything gets lost. That's catastrophic for some Mac users.

Do you have a backup plan? What's your backup plan? Extra hard drive? CDs? DVDs? Network drive? .Mac?

There are now more ways to backup your Mac's important files than ever in the history of the Mac; Classic or OS X.

Regardless, if you don't backup files regularly then you're courting trouble. Hard drives die, sometimes without notice. Mac's, as good as we like to think they are, occasionally fry themselves (or get fried) and need major repair, often with loss of important data.

Here's how to tell if you need a backup plan. First, think of all that's on your Mac that's important to you. You've got 1,200 songs in iTunes. You've got 3,569 photos in iPhoto.

You're working on two digital movies from the last birthday part and a friend's wedding.

There's that folder of Microsoft Word and Excel documents that you've had for nine years. It's priceless. Add dozens of PowerPoint presentations from the past two jobs.

Are those files important to you?

How about email and addresses? Do you keep those in Mail and AddressBook? What happens to your day when you come in, turn on your Mac and nothing happens. Hard drive is dead. Mac is dead. You're dead.

What's your backup plan? Could you rebuild all your data in an hour?

Now, I don't want to sound alarmist but I've had my share of data losses and know how valuable all my files really are and how I'd feel if they all disappeared.

Short of having a winter home in the South and keeping two Macs fully synchronized and half a continent apart, there are plenty of ways to keep your Mac backed up and ready to run again when it decides to stop running.

Experience has taught me that there are two basic ways to backup your Mac (your mileage may vary, there may be other ways, but these are basics).

A full backup, or clone, of the Mac's hard drive has become popular because it's easy and often gets your Mac up and running quickly if there's a main hard drive failure.

Also popular and perhaps equally important is **a backup of important files**; all iTunes music, all iPhoto files, all word processor documents, all Mail and addresses, and so on. [*Your entire Home Folder – Ed*]

You're in good shape if all your important files are backed up somewhere else. You can always get a new Mac if the house burns down. You can't always replace your files.

The best backup procedures will include both methods. The first method gets you up and running quickly because it's essentially a clone of your Mac's hard drive. If it's an external drive, you could always plug it in to a neighbor's Mac.

The second method helps against catastrophic loss; your live near the airport and a jetliner decided to land on your house. It's hurricane season and the 27th hurricane is heading your way.

Fortunately, there are plenty of Mac applications that will allow you to get up and running quickly, and save important data from catastrophic loss.

Here's what I do to protect my Mac's files.

Mac Cloning By far, this is the easiest method to backup important files on your Mac. Get an extra hard drive, external Firewire or USB2 is preferred, launch the appropriate Mac application, and an hour later it's cloned; a perfect copy.

Backing up again the next day takes only minutes as only the changed files need to get copied to the cloned hard drive.

