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How to backup your work 4May2024

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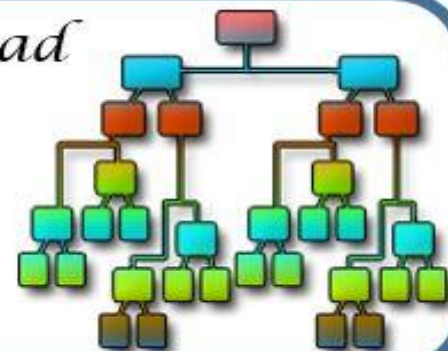
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How to backup your work

- This is a lecture
- This is designed to take about an hour
 - Questions will be taken and answered or postponed if we will cover them later
 - Questions about your people will be handled after as time permits



How to backup your work

- Last time we covered how to publish your work
- Publishing your work is one way to back it up. If you use a web site – republishing your GedCom is a backup – but is usually only one way.
- Other forms of publishing are much more static. Therefore, they are not really backups.
- What ever – you **DO NOT WANT** to lose all your work!!!!



How to backup your work

- Why backup your work
 - Computers fail. Disks fail. Web sites go bankrupt. Bills aren't paid.
 - Power fails. Floods happen – as do fires. Theives rob you.
 - Wherever you have valuable data, you need a backup elsewhere
 - Most times at least two places and types.



How to backup your work

What “Your Work” consists of:

- The application you use to “store” your data. This could be an online/phone app or a software package you use, or a spreadsheet or documents.
- Your entered data, photos, and documents
 - Supporting exhibits - documents, photos, etc. that you have scanned in or downloaded
 - Supporting documents, photos, etc. that you have in your “paper” filing system



How to backup your work

Backing up the Online App/Phone App you use

- The biggest disadvantage of an online application is backup
- Generally, the owner will “update” these regularly, which can cause you to lose some needed features – AND access to your data!!!!
- Generally, updates retain features and add more, but not always
- MOST allow you to export your GedCom – or at least portions
- Some allow exporting supporting documents and exhibits.
- You can print out sections or all – in their format. Printouts are not really backups.
- Phone Apps may not support printouts, but usually work with online apps which do



How to backup your work

Backing up the Software App you use

- You need to keep a copy of the installer.
 - However, upgrades to the software frequently are “handled” and you don’t get an installer file.
- If your license term ends, the software will usually no longer operate. Some will allow you to continue to use the installed version, but re-installing from the installer may not work.
- Some updates may then require you to pay – or pay more – to get features you use
- Most do allow you to export your GedCom
- Most do allow exporting supporting documents and exhibits
- You can print out sections or all – in their format. Printouts are not really backups.



How to backup your work

- Things you can't backup:
 - Anything online – that is anything stored on a public website. Many will allow you to download GedComs and some will allow supporting documents to be downloaded.
 - Anything on a Phone App. Most genealogy phone apps also have a public site you can upload to and then download from that – see above.
 - Anything not on your local computer – unless it is on a website you own/lease



How to backup your work

- Backups once you have files on your computer
 - I'll cover specific tools and methods available for Windows. Most have versions for Apple, or there is a very similar product.
 - You can use the backup tools that come with the operating system. However, they are not designed to provide complete restoration capabilities unless you are “cloning” your hard drive.
 - Few operating systems support cloning a hard drive as backup, because the licensing procedure includes the hard drive serial number – which is unique.



How to backup your work

- What/when to backup
 - The data folders defined by the genealogy software you are using. TMG requires you to create a project directory which has ALL the project files in it – including exhibits, photos, documents, etc.
 - Several recent GedComs
 - The Program Files folder for the application you are using
 - Your Personal settings files – which often contain settings for your backup software and your genealogy software
 - The installers and all downloaded updates to them



How to backup your work

- What/when to backup
 - You should backup whenever you enter stuff
 - Before you reboot, as updates usually occur then
 - On a daily or weekly schedule that works with yours – you may not notice small patches or updates. Most backup software will help you do this.
 - You can do full and partial backups
 - Keep a rotation of the backups – this protects against file corruption or backup failures



How to backup your work

- What/when to backup
 - Sample schedule
 - Genealogy data files Monday/Wednesday/Friday
 - Personal data folder, program folder, and genealogy data files every Sunday
 - Keep each backup for 3 weeks



How to backup your work

- Specific items to backup your genealogy
 - Some of these don't apply if you are using a public website or phone application
 - Daily - GedComs, application data files, exhibits, photos, and documents
 - Weekly – Application program folder, application data folder, application installer and any upgrades, and personal ID settings folder, entire website data structure if using a private website an/or application



How to backup your work

- Where to backup
 - Backups onto the same computer where the data is stored are not backups – computer failure can lose everything
 - Backups stored in the same living space as the computer are not backups – fire, flood, tornado, etc
 - Backups only stored in one space are not backups – see above
 - Only one backup device is not a backup – see above - plus device failure



How to backup your work

- Where to backup
 - You should have backups stored at least in two places and made by two different devices/methods
 - Ideally, you are backing up your backups
 - I know, I'm paranoid

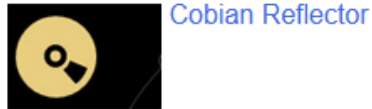
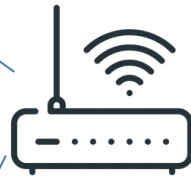


How to backup your work

- Where to backup

My main computer downloads from OneDrive and uses Cobian to backup OneDrive and WebTrees to the external drive. It uses a separate BackBlaze to backup all drives. OneDrive backs up all changes and the external drive.

Webtrees has my GedCom, Photos, exhibits, and documents



My backup computer downloads from OneDrive and uses Cobian to backup OneDrive and WebTrees to the external drive. It uses a separate BackBlaze to backup all drives. OneDrive backs up the external drive.

My wife's computer works like mine – with the backup computer getting copies of her external drive and files via OneDrive. All computers share one OneDrive. All computers and the laptop have all genealogy files.



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How to backup your work

- Where to backup
 - Thumb Drives / Data Keys
 - Usually slower
 - Easy to store in other places
 - Hard to identify – no room for much nomenclature
 - Connectors break and can be lost
 - External Hard Drives
 - Fast, but sit where your computer sits
 - Prone to failures if moved a lot
 - Power Supply and interface are usually first point of failure



How to backup your work

- Where to backup
 - Another computer
 - Requires networking them and using software that can use that
 - Good if not in same location – otherwise only protects from hardware failure
 - Quickest to recovery
 - Cloud services
 - Subject to upload speeds, data limits, outages
 - Recovery can be slow to very slow



How to backup your work

- How to backup
 - Apple and Microsoft provide backup tools as part of the OS.
 - They only backup a limited set of files – usually not any user settings or software installation stuff
 - They are usually harder to schedule – they are only basic tools
 - Free and Purchased third-party Backup software
 - More robust – will usually backup everything you want to and do it on a schedule
 - Some come with limited free cloud backup but most offer paid cloud storage
 - Cloud storage goes away when the payment ceases
 - Some encrypt the backups in such a way that you can't open them without an account.



How to backup your work

- How to backup
 - These are Windows recommendations – I don't do Apple – sorry
 - These are desktop recommendations – phones are slow and do not have room for any extensive backup – they only backup to the cloud
 - These are not web-based software recommendations – generally you aren't allowed to “backup”. However, you should be able to export your GedComs and maybe download exhibits, photos, and documents.



How to backup your work

- How to backup (websites in Resources below)
 - Local Backup - use a product something like Cobian Reflector. Reflector is free and can backup user settings and program files on any schedule. It can do different levels of backup on different days or the same day. It can also do FTP backups of private websites – like a WebTrees site. I use Cobian to do backups to local external drives. These backups include the Onedrive folder and are then backed up by both BackBlaze and Onedrive.



How to backup your work

- How to backup (websites in Resources below)
 - Cloud Backup – I use two different products
 - BackBlaze - \$150 / year. This product will backup the entire disk drive – minus the OS files - continuously as changes happen. Backups are encrypted and can't be shared unless you pay for a second account. You can recover a file, a folder, or the whole disk drive from anytime over the past 30 days. The disadvantage is that large “recovered” data sets need to be shipped on a “loaner” disk drive – you are charged for the disk drive and refunded when it is shipped back.
 - Several companies offer online backup services. Investigate the security and flexibility as well as the pricing.



How to backup your work

- How to backup (websites in Resources below)
 - Cloud Backup – I use two different products
 - OneDrive \$50/year for office 365 subscription with 2 TB of storage. In a lot of ways, this has the same features as Backblaze. You can grant access to other users. Files are encrypted on their server – but always show as un-encrypted. You can have backups on the server while simultaneously not having those files on the local drive, allowing you to free up disk space – but remember the storage rules – 30 days. It does not cost extra to have multiple devices using the same account.
 - If you have two or more computers with OneDrive installed and synched, all changes made on one will show up on the other shortly – depending on your internet speed.
 - Other vendors offer similar cloud storage – most are not as flexible as OneDrive – but may fit your needs



How to backup your work

- How to backup (websites in Resources below)
 - I use Cobian to backup my OneDrive folder, Program Files and User settings folders, Genealogy Software folder, installers, and data. It backs up to an external hard drive.
 - I use BackBlaze to backup my local OneDrive folder, Program Files and User settings folders, Genealogy Software folder, installers, and data, and my Cobian backup. It backs up to the cloud.
 - I use OneDrive to backup my local OneDrive folder, Genealogy data, and my Cobian backup. It backs up to the cloud – and is copied to my computers – main and backup - and laptop.



How to backup your work

- Where to find this data
 - The data folders defined by the genealogy software you are using. TMG requires you to create a project directory which has ALL the project files in it – including exhibits, photos, documents, etc.
 - Several recent GedComs
 - The Program Files folder for the application you are using
 - Your Personal settings files – which often contain settings for your backup software and your genealogy software
 - The installers and all download updates to them



How to backup your work

- Where to find this data
 - The data folders defined by the genealogy software you are using
 - This is usually part of the setup for the Genealogy software. There should be a Tools or Settings or a Gear Icon indicating where this is located.
 - When in doubt, look at where the program wants to save exhibits, reports, and GedComs. Use the parent or top level of that directory.
 - For example, TMG uses this folder to export GedComs:
 - B:\Documents\Genealogy Docs\The Master Genealogist\Projects\TMG7 Walz Hjelmstad\Export
 - Therefore, backup the folder
 - B:\Documents\Genealogy Docs\The Master Genealogist\Projects



How to backup your work

- Where to find this data
 - My Data Folders include:
 - The Project file; the Genealogy Documents file – exhibits, photos, documents; The configuration folder; and the Export and Reports folders
 - Several recent GedComs
 - By backing up the Data Folders, I get my Export folder with all GedComs I haven't deleted



How to backup your work

- Where to find this data
 - The Program Files folder for the application you are using
 - You can usually find this by looking at the properties for the Icon for the program on your desktop
 - Windows – Right click on the Icon and look at the Start in under the Shortcut tab. For TMG it is:
C:\Program Files (x86)\The Master Genealogist v9\
 - Apple – applications are kept in the Applications Folder in a folder with the application name
/Applications



How to backup your work

- Where to find this data
 - Your Personal settings files – which often contain settings for your backup software and your genealogy software
 - This is where the configuration files for the program – not the project are kept.
 - Windows –
C:\Users*your user name*
 - Apple –
/Users/your user name



How to backup your work

- Where to find this data
 - The installers and all download updates to them
 - This is usually where your files are downloaded to. It is smart to download into separate folders when downloading installers for an application. Some applications use their own upgrade utility which doesn't download upgrade installers.
 - Windows –
C:\Users*your user name*\Downloads
 - Apple –
Use your browser settings to find your download folder



How to backup your work

- Resources

- Cobian Reflector

- [CobianSoft - The home of Cobian Backup](#)
 - <https://www.cobiansoft.com/cobianbackup.html>

- BackBlaze

- [Home \(backblaze.com\)](#)
 - <https://www.backblaze.com/>

- OneDrive / Microsoft Office 365

- <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoft-365>





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 Bentsen and Reed
Ancestral Lines



Genealogy Jottings
The Happiness of Pursuit



Walzs from Mahanomen
Hjelmstads from Milton







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