



We make House Calls!

If your **COMPUTER** is sick, call the **DOCTOR** and get rid of the ick!

TechTales - Hard Drives and Backups

Perform maintenance on regular basis to avoid problems on OS X!
Download a copy of "Keeping your MAC happy!" from our web site.

Please Note!

it's ALWAYS best to BACKUP your hard drive before you start a maintenance procedure!

Hard Drive Backups

I can't stress enough the need to back up all your hard drives. Hard drives fail and sometimes the data cannot be recovered. Re-initializing and testing a new hard drive, internal or external (USB or Firewire) is also very important.

The best type of backup on system OS X is a clone or a duplicate. You can create a bootable backup if you use an external firewire drive. This could be used as a startup drive if you lost your internal hard drive until you get a new drive and then you can clone it back to the new drive. If you don't have an external drive you can simply drag folders and files to recordable media like a CD or a zip drive. Try to copy your Users folder or at least your documents folder located in your Users folder.

Heat is another problem that contributes to accelerated drive failure. Don't stack your drives on top of one another or other devices that generate heat. It just makes all of them run ever hotter. Do a temperature check with your hand, drives should not feel hot to the touch. Consider using an external fan to help cool external devices and move the heat away from your computer as well. It will help extend their life span.

Recently there has been an increase in external drives for sale by many new manufacturers. Most of these drives are in small cases and do not offer any cooling. Failure with this type of drive seems to be higher than normal. If you can find one with a fan inside buy it. If you have Firewire ports buy a firewire device. It's always better to connect hard drives directly to the computer and there are always too many devices on the USB ports.

One last note on backups. You really should have more than one backup set to be safe. And, don't keep all your backups next to your computer. Keep at least one set in another location or even a safe deposit box.

Enjoy

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Performance, Protection and Help! Any questions or problems, just give us a call.