

NORMAN R. WRIGHT & SONS
Established 1909

the situation:

Although employed as a naval architect, working within a small team has meant I also inherited the task of 'IT Manager', with my responsibilities including backups amongst other things. Our most important data is our designs. Contracted to design and build multi-million dollar vessels, our graphic files are our livelihood.

In the past, file transfer to an external hard drive was our backup procedure. Being such a manual and time-consuming process, this realistically only got done every few weeks – not ideal considering the complex design files I work on daily.

disadvantages to this process:

- Manual
- Infrequent backups risk business productivity and recovery times in a disaster
- External hard-drives are typically fixed & onsite; therefore can be destroyed with your data;
- Cost from \$50 - \$600
- Data is unencrypted; if it falls into the wrong hands, your files can be very easily read
- Manual backup is time-consuming and relies on staff involvement
- Effective automatic backup requires media rotation

the Datagard solution:

Our computer maintenance provider actually suggested online backup to me some time ago. When we were ready to change to a new process, I signed up for a 10GB backup account through the website.

The greatest change for me has been the ability to set the backups to occur after hours. Manual backups are no longer part of my work day. Automation means that the backups just get done and we can trust that our designs will be there if data loss occurs. Before Datagard, we had experienced system crashes where our data was lost, including current projects. Then, we only had out-of-date backups to go back to. Next time this happens, we will always have the previous days backup and be able to restore our files straight away.

I have set up Datagard on our server and have included each pc in the office. They are all backed up to the one Datagard account.

Another Datagard service I would recommend is for large initial backups; where the first backup is transferred to hard-drive then transported by Spheritec to the backup server and moved directly into the vault. This saves the delay in completing your initial backup, which can happen with particularly large accounts. Our backups are now conducted in just minutes each day.

advantages:

- no hardware requirements
- data is stored offsite in a business-grade data centre
- automated backups: saving time and money

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