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COMPUTER REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE

***** Ransomware attacks seem to be on the Increase *****

Backup Considerations

Backup of important and essential data with the very real threat of ransomware added to the possibility of hardware failure is more important than ever before. We see data lost due to both causes all too often and protection software is mostly ineffective against modern ransomware attacks and obviously is not going to help a hardware failure. Malwarebytes and Windows 10 properly setup are supposed to protect against some Ransomware attacks but probably not all.

When Ransomware attacks, it is often when the machine is not being used and by the time it is realized that it has happened, it's far too late, your data, programs & in some cases operating system are damaged beyond rescue, this includes any attached drives and backups, even cloud data can be encrypted.

There is currently only one sure way to protect your precious data, backup, backup, backup!!!

Backup best practices and things to consider

A regular backup should be done using media that is removable so that when a Ransomware hits, at least one recent backup is safely stored **unplugged** and away from the running machine.

The regularity of any backup routine depends on your individual circumstances, I always say "how much are you prepared to lose", in most work or office machines, a daily rotation is best, using at least 2 USB Hard disks and a recognized backup software (I use "Second Copy" for this).

What needs to be included in the backup:

Documents

Pictures

Videos

Emails (unless your using imap)

Contacts

Favorites or Bookmarks

Local copies of cloud data (ie Dropbox)

Quickbooks (or other) databases that are not stored in the above areas

Program install files, registration documents, password documents

All of the above needs to be taken from any mission critical workstations and NAS drives or Servers

Ransomware attacks are on the increase, (I've seen 2 machines completely wiped out in December already, including backups), they often lead to complete loss of all data, so please do not think it won't happen to you because it probably will.