

As seen in the
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File security is a selective process

By Al Irwin
Times Reporter

Compuback uses discrimination to create efficient computer backup. Their system recognizes and saves only each day's changes to original files, cutting backup time 98 per cent.

When Trena and Kevin Pennington learned of a break-in at a local non-profit society, they decided to extend a helping hand. "We felt bad. We couldn't believe what kind of lowlife would rip off a non-profit society," said Kevin, of Compuback Storage Solutions in Aldergrove.

A thief had broken into the office of Langley's Living on Purpose Foundation and stolen a computer, which contained valuable files. Living on Purpose, through youth and family-oriented programs, strives to improve relationships between parents and their children. Their program had been recently accepted into the curriculum of the New Westminster School District.

The Penningtons saw the story of the theft in The Times, and learned that because of the \$1,000 insurance deductible, Living on Purpose would have to cut one child from camp. Compuback, which offers a state-of-the-art computer backup service, offered to send the youth to camp. And it also offered to establish a back-up, data-protection program, using fast-bit patching, a system which each day backs up and stores computer files. The Penningtons provided the program on a free trial basis, and as the trial period neared its end, the Langley offices of the society were again targeted and the remaining computers were stolen - along with many irreplaceable files.

By the next morning, Compuback had a CD available to restore all of the lost files. After replacement computers were installed at the offices, the staff at Compuback restored all of the 1,202 critical files to Living on Purpose, in less than one hour. Pennington said Compuback and their associates have been providing disaster recovery services to companies in Canada and the United States for 20 years. Industries being served include banking and securities, insurance and financial services, defense and aerospace, government agencies, community service, charity, and religious organizations. The efficiency of fast-bit patching comes from its ability to recognize changes, and back up and save only the daily changes made to the files. The system recognizes changes as insignificant as one or two characters in individual files, and records only those changes, rather than backing up the entire contents of the files. Pennington said he estimates this reduces backup times by 98 per cent, and storage is vastly reduced. "I can back your data up in five or six minutes," he said.

With the original files saved, and daily changes duly registered and stored, Compuback can restore lost or stolen files as they existed at the time of the theft, or on any requested date since the data recovery system was set up - by merging the files and changes. Compuback provides automatic off site storage of all critical data, encrypted using military grade encryption methods, he said. Pennington says the system is very stable, and very secure. Even he can't access the clients' data himself, a client's password is required.