Presentation review by Leah Clark, Editor, User Friendly, Los Angeles Computer Society – December Issue

Best Back-Up Approach
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Gene is one of the best known technical presenters working with user groups.
A good backup is the most important protection over any other anti-malware. It is one of the most important tasks that every computer user should do on a regular basis. Backups are the best protection against malware, but you must be very careful not to back up a virus!

This presentation covered the four most common backup approaches.

File Backups
Only data files are backed up to another disk, CD, thumb drive, etc.

Clone Backups
You can clone or copy one disk to another to make an exact duplicate. His method can be used to back up an entire hard drive.

Online (Cloud) Backup Approach
Carbonite is an example of this. It must be remembered that this is only a partial backup; Carbonite backs up only data files, not the operating system. It can be very slow to restore.

Image Backup Approach
This is a two-step backup/restore method. The entire content of a main drive is copied to an external hard drive, and is compressed. You can back up many times to one hard drive. This is an excellent backup approach.

Partition Backups
A partition is a section of your hard drive. The Windows operating system is on the C drive. If there is a crash that takes down the C drive, all your data is down, to, if it's on the C drive. Partitioning is a good way to organize your hard drive. Divide a large hard drive into several partitions, so that data like photos, genealogy records, etc., can be put into separate partitions. Each partition is assigned a different drive letter, so if the C drive crashes, the other drives will be intact.

It is best to save backups to an external hard drive. This drive should be removed from your computer between backups.

How often should you back up? Large corporations back up hourly; small businesses, daily; end users, Weekly.

Restoring
You may need a new physical hard drive, but in 80% of the time, it's the software that has caused the problem. Attach the external hard drive with the backup image to your computer. To restore individual files, run Windows Explorer, and copy the files. If using the Windows 10 Backup Utility, you must back up the entire drive.

Gene discussed the Acronis True Image backup system. This is a powerful hard drive utility suite. It includes partition and file backup utilities, Internet (Cloud) backups, continuous backups, a disk clone utility, a hard drive clean-up utility, wireless mobile device backup to a PC, remote backup management, archiving, Network attached storage (NAS), and more.

Gene offers a user group discount license fee of $25.00; he also offers free technical support at supportAugr7.com.