

DISASTER PREPARATION

THINKING ABOUT THE UNTHINKABLE

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Conference Description
& Registration Links go to

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WHAT CAUSED ME TO RETHINK DISASTER PREPARATION?

- My office is in Ventura, California.
- On December 4, 2017 the Thomas Fire started near Santa Paula and driven by Santa Ana winds of up to 80 MPH flew west through the county at speeds up to one acre per second.
- It continued on into Santa Barbara county and covered nearly all of our computer shop's service area in two days, becoming the largest wildfire in California history.

WHAT CAUSED ME TO RETHINK DISASTER PREPARATION?

- A month later we had our first rain after the fire. Mudslides in Santa Barbara killed 20 and destroyed more than 100 homes on top of the 1,000 structures and 2 lives lost to the fire.
- After dealing with clients who had lost homes and data, we quickly figured out that no one was prepared for an event of this magnitude.

WHAT WAS WRONG WITH MY OLD ADVICE?

1. I had allowed users and businesses to keep all their backups in their homes/offices.
2. I hadn't considered that the same event could wipe out both home and office.
3. I hadn't put any thought into what happens if a client doesn't survive the disaster.

WHAT'S THE MOST IMPORTANT TAKEAWAY?

- In talking with quite a few who had to evacuate quickly, they all said the same thing.
- They wandered around in a daze, grabbing needless items and leaving important stuff behind.
- When you think this will be the last time you see your home, thinking pretty much ceases.
- If you don't have a written plan in a location you don't have to think about to retrieve, you are in trouble.

TO DO TODAY

- Write a plan of what you will take if you are ever told to evacuate quickly.
- Figure out what will fit in your car and what necessary items you can get in quickly.
- Post it on the refrigerator or other place where you will know where it is.

WHAT ELSE TO DO BEFORE EVACUATING

1. Shut off gas and electricity
2. Put a note on the front door that everyone has evacuated safely.
3. If you take two cars, agree upon a meeting place. If cellular service is working, keep the phones connected in case one of you has difficulty.

MY NEW THINKING ABOUT DATA BACKUP

It is not enough to have backups onsite.

1. You need them, but . . .
2. The fire burned everything, even things stored in a fire safe were melted beyond use.
3. You must add cloud backup to the mix.

WHAT CLOUD BACKUP WORKS BEST

- A dedicated cloud backup program/service like Carbonite or Mozy
- A carefully crafted automatic backup like Microsoft OneDrive, Google Drive, Apple iCloud or Dropbox
- Third party software that automatically backs up to Amazon Web Services (S3) , Microsoft Azure or other raw data cloud storage

WHAT DO I NEED TO BACKUP?

- All Documents
- All Pictures
- All email that isn't online
- Music/video if irreplaceable
- Anything you would miss if it were gone forever
- All your login/password pairs

PASSWORDS, PASSWORDS, PASSWORDS

- If you die, how do your heirs find everything?
- Best practice: Use a cloud-based password manager program like LastPass or Roboform
- Do not do as I used to: Use a local password manager like KeePass.
- When you die no one will be able to resurrect your passwords
- Let relatives know how to get your master password

FREE CLOUD BACKUP

- Google Drive: 15GB free
- Box: 10GB free
- OneDrive: 5GB free (1TB for students)
- iCloud: 5GB free
- Dropbox: 2GB free, plus up to 16GB extra
- Amazon Drive: 5GB + unlimited photos with Prime

BACKUP BARGAIN

- Microsoft Office 365 Home has the following features:
 - 5 User Accounts, with the entire Office suite
 - Each account can be installed on 5 devices
 - Each account can store up to one terabyte of data
 - Annual cost is \$99

SUMMARY

While we still need local, full image backups

1. Data must also be saved offsite.
2. Passwords must be saved offsite.
3. All account logins must be made available for heirs.

QUESTIONS?

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