



A Perfect Backup System

A perfect backup system is where you have 3 copies. The first would be a copy on your hard drive and two on floppy disks or tape backup. It may sound redundant, but think of the possibility that your disk drive is defective. Your working disk gets damaged so you faithfully insert your backup copy only to have it chewed up as well — you then realize the source of the problem is with the drive itself and if you're lucky, you still have your 3rd copy.

Many large mainframe installations use a system called Grandfather-Father-Son backup. The idea is that a full backup is done every day and every 3rd day (father) and every week (Grandfather). The backup masters are rotated so that the Grandfather becomes the son and so on. Also, a common practice is to keep one copy offsite — just in case of disaster.

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