



Anytime you have a single hard drive with data upon it there is a risk of loss or failure of all the data.

Hard Drives can fail any day, any time. You rarely get an indication that it is going to happen to you, but when it does, if you are prepared; a recovery of your data will be possible.

To backup your Macintosh HD (A) you need to purchase an external backup (C) then allow it to be a Time Machine Backup. By bringing in an external drive to backup your Macintosh HD you will have a way of recovering all your documents, images, pictures and video in the case of a hard drive failure. (often called a “Crash”) There are other backup programs that also backup your computer. This article is specifically about Apple's free backup utility called Time Machine. Note: A Time Machine backup can also be achieved by using an Airport Time Capsule.

If you have more than one hard drive:

If a Macintosh HD (A) is getting full many of us will purchase another hard drive (B) to extend the amount of space available to store data. We start saving or moving our documents, images, video or music to the external drive (B). Now both (A) and (B) are at risk if a failure was to occur. If you purchase a third hard drive (C) then you will have the ability to backup both Drive (A) and (B). Note: You must check to make sure both drives are actually backed up by Time Machine to insure a future recovery.

The picture above is an example of the power of a backup strategy.

- Time Machine Drive (C) is backing up Macintosh HD (A) so if (A) fails you can recover all your data.
- Time Machine Drive (C) is also backing up Data Drive (B) so if it fails you can recover all your data.
- If the Time Machine drive fails you can purchase a new external hard drive to start a new Time Machine backup. As long as you lose only one drive in the scenario above you can always recover your data.

Remember: Anytime you have a single hard drive with data upon it there is a risk of loss or failure. Be prepared for a hard drive failure and you will never be at risk of losing your data.

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