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TSS Newsletter

Think about it. Everyday technology is advancing with malware AND virus attacks are becoming more sophisticated. Let's say you spent a day working on project for a lesson and the deadline is the following day. What happens if your computer becomes infected or your hardware malfunctions? Now what do you do? You can call Tech Support, but you'll most likely lose your work for something you could have prevented. The solution is to **BACK UP** your files.

But wait, you're probably already making excuses.

"I'm too busy to be backing up computer files."

The odds of getting infected by a virus are 1 in 7. Malware and virus attacks are so sophisticated you don't even have to click or download anything. You can become infected by just visiting a website alone.

"I would like to back up my files, but I don't know how?"

Backing up files is easy as 1 2 3. Investing in an external hard drive and flash drive is the first step. And yes, it requires you to manually make copies of your files, but it is worth it!

"No way, my computer will never malfunction or get infected on my watch."

Have you ever thought of your hard drive failing on you? It is the most frequently replaced hardware on a computer.

What can you do to back up your files?

Investing in a portable flash drive or hard drive is the cheapest way to back up your files.

How to back up files to flash drive, an external hard drive, or CD drive:

1. Right click on the selected file or folder you want to backup and click COPY.
2. Locate and click to open My Computer (usually in the start menu or on your desktop as an icon).
3. Locate and click to open your connected flash drive, external hard drive or CD drive.
4. Once you open your flash drive, external hard drive or CD drive, right click anywhere and select paste.
5. If you pasted them on your CD drive, you can then burn your files to CD.
6. Your files should now have a duplicate copy.



Tracy Daniel
Technology & Assessment
Coordinator

Jack Wittmann
TSS Supervisor

Hope Redmond
Secretary

John Belham
Student Information System
Specialist & MSIS Contact

Jonathan Geiselman
Clint Lowry
Network Engineers

Rick Herro
Tim Masters
David Triggs
Computer Technicians

Glen Baker
Telecommunications

Dionne Lombard
Instructional Technology
Specialist



DID YOU KNOW?

You should always have more than ONE copy of your important documents, flipcharts, and lesson plans.

You should use your school or site name in the subject line of your email.

You should never select the remember password box on a public computer.

Technology Integration Interns

John Armstrong - GHS | TSS
Shahuna Dorsey - TSS
Minh Le - TSS
Richard Martin - GCMS
LaShanda McMillan - PRE
San Miller - BVE
Danny Sou - GHS | AAE | TSS
Darimon Thompson - CE
Shmeka Williams - GPE

Problem: Your pen is not responding to the board.

Solution: Unplug the USB plug that connects your board to your computer. You do not have to turn anything off to do this. Wait 30 seconds and plug it back in to your computer. In most cases, this will solve your problem.

Problem: Your Screen is blue and says, "No Signal."

Solution: Check to make sure all cables are securely fastened to the computer. If you have connected a DVD/VCR player to the board, you may be on the wrong input. Press the computer input on the projector remote to search for the signal from the computer.

Problem: Your pen is not aligned with the cursor on the board.

Solution: Hover the pen over the Flame (Calibration light) in the top-left corner of the board for a few seconds. Follow the on-screen instructions.

Flame Light Helpful Hints:

- If the flame is **white**, your ActivBoard is operating correctly.
- If the flame is **red**, the ActivBoard has had trouble booting up. Unplug the USB connection from the board to the computer. Wait 30 seconds and then re-plug.
- If the flame is **purple**, the ActivBoard has not been shut down properly. Unplug the board and re-plug the board back into the power supply.
- If the flame is **flashing blue**, there may be an issue with the power brick that connects the ActivBoard to the power supply.
- If the flame is **solid blue**, the ActivBoard has entered Bluetooth mode. The ActivBoard will leave Bluetooth mode after one minute of inactivity.

COMPUTER BUYING TIPS

Source: <http://www.computertips.com/>

Deciding whether to buy a Mac or a PC should be based on two main points: your budget and whether the computer is primarily for business or pleasure. Both types of computers are excellent for specific tasks, although if you are planning to go to work and bring your computer with you, you may need to consider what types of computers your coworkers will have to make it easier to swap files or compare notes. Here a few basic tips on how to choose the right computer for you.

Budget

There's no debate—Macs are far more expensive than PCs. If money is a big issue for you, you'll want to buy a PC. However, Macs aren't overpriced. Unlike PCs, each computer is designed for maximum efficiency in both processing speed and ease of use. While PCs frequently crash and are vulnerable to spyware and viruses, Macs resist most viral attacks and operate at a consistently high standard with virtually no technical issues. If you can afford it, a Mac is an excellent investment which will work for you for years.

Personal Use

If you enjoy playing video games in your spare time, buying a PC is probably the best choice. This is partly because PCs are easier to hook up to auxiliary equipment like television sets or other devices. Although USB ports are evenly distributed between Macs and PC, the higher data transfer portals of a Mac do not always adapt easily to most conventional televisions, making it difficult to quickly relay information between the two devices, whereas the higher data transfer portals of a PC are usually very adaptable to auxiliary devices.

If, on the other hand, you prefer to design or develop creative projects in your personal time, Macs are a much better choice. Because Apple has invested so much time in making the user interface incredibly easy to use, spending time creating music or drawing or editing movies becomes less about the computer and more about the activity; you forget you are using a computer, and can instead focus on the act of creation. PCs have a more rigid approach; it's hard to forget that you're on a computer.