

Computer Bits by Mark Eggert of Raad One Network Solutions, Inc.

Welcome to Computer Bits, a series of articles on computers and network information. This article will cover portable storage devices.

I've been asked if there is some portable storage device for computer files? The person asking this questions has a large number of files on a computer that they would like to archive off the computer's hard drive to free up space for the creation of more files. There are a few ways of doing this and they all have advantages and disadvantages.

One is to use a Tape Backup Device, its advantage is that it can hold the largest amount of files, up to 80GBs. Its disadvantages are that very good ones and they media are expensive and the files are stored sequentially so that finding and restoring a file can take some time.

The second option is to use a CD-ReWriter and save the files on CDs. The advantage here is that good CD-ReWriters and the media are inexpensive. The disadvantage is that CDs hold less data usually 650MBs but the low cost of media may offset this. Although if you have too many CDs being used for archiving it may be difficult to find a file you wish to restore.

The third option is to use the portable devices from Iomega. They have the Zip Drive on the low end that holds 250MBs and the Peerless Drive on the high end that holds 20GBs. These devices are on the low end for price but the media can be a little expensive. Although with 20GBs of storage you may only need the one piece of media that comes with the drive. Files restoration is easier because you will probably only have a few piece of media and they can be searched like a hard drive.

These are a few of the options and they're about the best ones. Next month I'd like to switch this series to a Question and Answer format. So if you have a computer or network question you'd like answered and you think others would like to know the answer too, please forward them to me. My email address is meggert@wi.rr.com, my phone number is 262-679-7704 and my fax number is 262-679-7664.