

Go ahead - prove me wrong

Most small businesses do not adequately secure their data against loss! Sweeping statement or fact? Ask yourself this...

What would happen to my business, if after a long weekend, I arrived back at work to find all my computers - gone. All my printers - gone. My server - gone. All the leads and backup tapes - all gone.

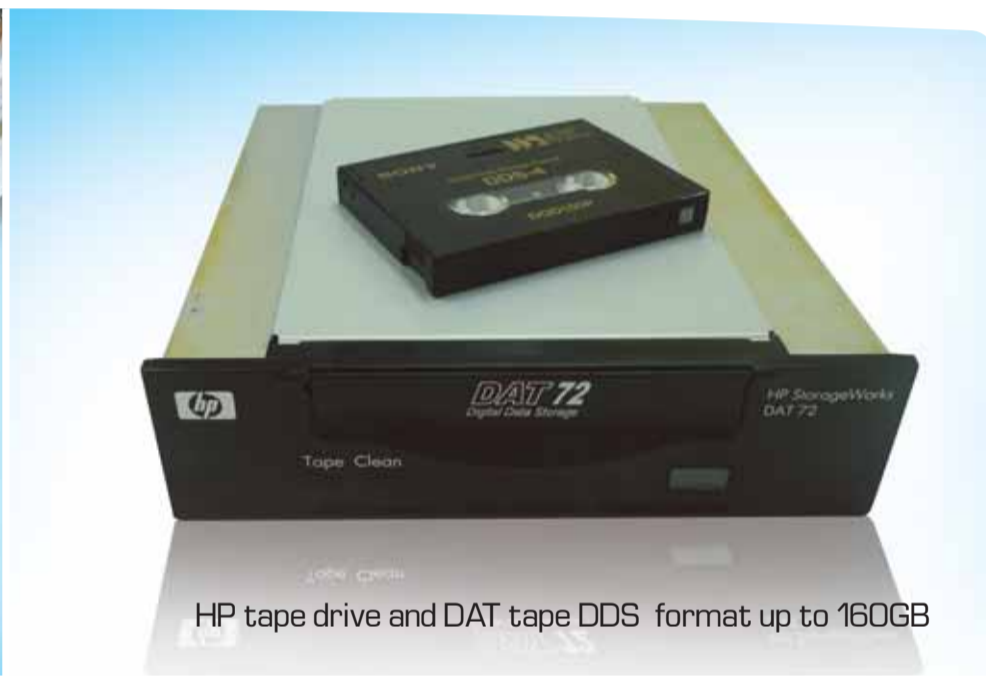
Sounds far fetched? Maybe...but it did happen to a small magazine publisher in Melbourne's South Eastern Suburbs. The thieves had plenty of time to pack everything neatly into boxes prior to loading. This was evident as they had left one box behind, complete with cables carefully rolled up and tied with cable ties. You may very well say "It will never happen to me" but you would only be looking at a very small sample space. Total loss of data does happen and more often than you would think. The above example did however have a happy ending. This particular customer did heed TekSupport's advice and had maintained a rotation of off-site backup tapes. We were able to supply all new equipment, load the applications and restore the data. They were up and running within a couple of days and they only lost a few hours worth of production.

My father - a pilot - once said "...there are pilots that have landed with their wheels up and there are those that are about to.." What he said (hypothetically) is that there are businesses that have experienced total loss of data, and there are those that are about to. Don't become one of those that cannot recover.

I am yet to be convinced that there is currently any better solution to backing up than a good rotation of tapes with at least one set rotated off site. Of all the arguments and excuses, here are just a few....



Scratched and damaged hard drive. Data not recoverable.



HP tape drive and DAT tape DDS format up to 160GB

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LTO Ultrium format up to 1600GB.

- **Tape is old fashioned** (Wrong - tape has made vast technical leaps forward and is far superior to the alternatives)
- **External hard disks are faster.** (Wrong, LTO-3/4 drives can write data faster than most hard disk drives can read).
- **Hard disks are more reliable** (Wrong, the failure rate is higher and once a disk is dropped or damaged none of the information is recoverable)

Tape is cheap, robust and reliable. There is simply no excuse for having lots of them and maintaining a rigid backup regime. Tough times or not, cash flow is the life blood of small business and no one can afford the disruption that is associated with major loss of data. It never ceases to amaze me the number of small business owners that ignore or even neglect, at their peril, the very tools that generate and manage their ever critical cash flow.

If you're not backing up to tape - you're simply not backing up!

Rob Secombe

PS Why not call myself or Richard and see how we can help back you up before you back yourself into a corner!

contact us

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