

The Importance of Backing Up Your Web Site Files

There is no doubt about it – you NEED to backup your web site files on a regular basis!

It goes beyond just saving your page content. A good backup includes **all** of your core programming files that are on your web host server and also the data files which are located in your database (if your web site utilizes one). The database stores your pages, and images, texts, and sometimes other crucial information.

Even if your computer crashes, yes, that information is still on your hosting server, but what if the host server goes down or the data gets corrupted? And sorry to say it folks, but it **CAN** happen unfortunately. **No server is 100% fail proof.**

Your hosting provider will usually provide a backup option and you definitely need to find out how often they backup your site's data and how to retrieve it. Keep those instructions safe so you can refer to them.

Backing up your site is not just the responsibility of the hosting provider. You should also have your own backup system plan.

The Risks of Not Backing Up Your Web Site



If you take the risk of not backing up your site, you also take the risk of losing much, if not all of your data. It goes beyond just your text information. Without important elements of your web site, you risk losing not only the text information stored but the hard work and/or money you put into creating your web site files or important stored data.

Something as simple as a plugin that is not updated or a major server software update can render your site useless and can cause your database to crash unexpectedly. Any number of things can cause your site to crash. The goal here is not to scare you but to educate you so that you will take the necessary steps to backup your web site files.

Backing Up Your Web Site

One option for backing up your site is the Cpanel or the phpMyAdmin (for those utilizing a database) through your hosting provider. There is a backup wizard that helps you to go through backing up your various databases, text pages, images, and various needed files.

If you're using WordPress or similarly, you can use a plugin to backup your web site files. There are several WordPress plugins that handle the task of creating a database back-up.

How Often Should You Backup Your Site Files?

How often you should backup your web site is based upon how often you make changes, upload new entries, or add new elements to your web site or blog or database driven site.

The main/core files of your website, like a WordPress theme file, or a template stored file should, new text changes and/or images should be backed up after you have completed any major changes. It does not have to be backed up again until you make more changes.

Your site files and/or database needs to be backed up anywhere from once a week to once a month, depending upon how frequently and how much new content you adding to your site. Once a month is a good idea but once a week is even better for those who add a lot of new content.

Web Site Back-up Help

We have many clients that we work with on a regular basis to keep their sites backed up and ultimately protected if something was to go wrong. And if anything were to happen we can then use those saved files and get their site back up and running as it was before the issue.

For \$35 we offer a website back-up service where we do a full site back-up via FTP, which includes saving the entire web directory and database files. Once the files are saved, we email you a link where you can download the files to save onto your computer.

Over the years we've had customers who simply did not heed the warning to back up their own site files. It's a simple process that should never be ignored, no matter if your host provider has a back up plan or not.

It is your responsibility to keep a back up copy of all your sites content.