

## Tips to Avoid Data Loss

*Data recovery is the last resort on protecting your data. Preventing the loss of data is a much more valuable proposition. Learn how to avoid losing your data by reading this article.*



Running a data recovery business does not mean we like seeing your files going south. Data recovery is always the last resort. Tools to recover information are meant to be used in an emergency. You should never consider the use of a data recovery tool as a substitute for [backing up your files](#).

### Your Data in the Cloud

Your Data in the Cloud

Oops... Did I say "backup"? "No, not again!" is the most common reaction to this word from most computer users (we welcome those as our prospect customers).

Don't be scared of backups though. These days, you don't need to burn a bunch of DVDs every week. You don't even need to have a spare hard drive to accept your files. Instead, you can set up your computer to back up your work, your pictures and your music automatically into a cloud storage.

How does it work? In a word: easy. First, you'll need to choose your cloud provider. Dropbox and Google Drive are two popular services that are free for personal use, but you are not limited to just those two, as competition here gets really tough. But let's say you opted for Dropbox (Google Drive is very similar), and want to have your My Documents folder to be automatically synced with the cloud.

Go ahead and make yourself a Dropbox account using your email address and choosing a password. Download and install Dropbox software. Sign in with your email and password. Once installed, you will have your Dropbox folder in place (usually at c:\users\your\_user\_name\Dropbox). In order to make your My Documents folder sync with Dropbox, you'll need to point Dropbox to your Documents folder.

There are two ways to achieve that. Make sure to exit the Dropbox application, then do either of the following.

First, you can make an NTFS link to the My Documents folder by issuing the following command from the command line:

```
mklink /J "C:\Users\your_username\Dropbox\My Documents" "C:\Users\your_username \Documents"
```

Substitute your\_username with your actual Windows login name. This command will make a symbolic link in Dropbox without actually moving your Documents folder. This is the easiest and most convenient way to do it. After running this command, launch Dropbox and watch it sync your documents with the cloud.

Of course, you can make ANY folder on your computer sync with Dropbox this way.

Another way is moving My Documents under the Dropbox folder. Go to Windows Explorer and move your entire My Documents folder so it is a subfolder of Dropbox. So point Windows Explorer to c:\users\your\_user\_name\, locate My Documents folder there, and right-click on it. In the dialog box that appears, select Properties.

In other words, it will live under c:\users\xxxxx\Dropbox\My Documents. To perform the move properly, right-click on the My Documents folder. Find the "Location" tab, and click on the "Move..." button. Navigate to your new Dropbox folder, click where necessary, and your entire My Documents folder will move to its new location.

Are you using cloud storage, or do you have a different backup strategy? Share your tips on protecting your data at our [Facebook!](#)