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## *Northern Computer Connection*

Have you ever experienced a black screen along with that feeling in the pit of your stomach that you may have lost your data? Data recovery is a common service in the IT industry. In this month's issue, Keenan discusses options for data recovery.

Also, if you are struggling with sluggish performance from your PC or a hard drive that is getting full, reading Harry's guide on how to automatically run a disk cleanup will help.

## *What is Data Recovery?*

There is nothing worse than the feeling you get in your gut when your computer screen goes black and shuts down.

When you start your computer back up the black screen



comes up and with white writing flashes ERROR across the monitor. Suddenly you panic and you realize all of the pictures, the music, videos or important documents you may have on the hard drive may no longer exist. Before you decide to throw your now overpriced boat anchor off the top floor of your business or home there is the last line of defense: Data Recovery.

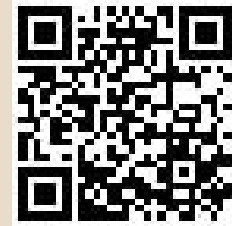
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Data recovery comes in a two forms: physical data recovery and software based data recovery. Hardware data recovery is the physical components and structures of the hard drive (or storage device) that has decided to break down and stop functioning. This could be replacement of circuit boards, head replacement, motor replacement or physically moving the platter into a whole new brick (hard drive case). This cannot be done by most users or even end users. They drives are usually sent away to data recovery companies that have clean rooms and specialize in this category of recovery.

Click [here](#) to continue reading.

- Keenan F, Network Support Technician

## ***Automatic Cleanup of Your Hard Drive***



Do you keep running out of space on your hard drive? Does your system seem sluggish lately? Perhaps what you need is to put your computer to work for you when you're not using it. The article here shows you how to setup a routine to automatically "cleanup" your computer so it keeps functioning well.....

Click [here](#) to download the pdf file.

- Harry M, Network Support Technician

## ***Tips and Tricks***

### **Website Security**

Browsing the internet can be a very dangerous place. Every day you hear about groups or people who somehow manage to get individuals personal information. It makes you wonder how secure your web browsing can be. It makes you ask questions when you are checking bank accounts or ordering online. "How secure is this?"



## Remote Support

### **Need Help?**



We provide online help from 8AM to 5PM Monday to Friday.

#### **Contact us at:**

250-762-7753 Option 3

or

[service@northerncomputer.ca](mailto:service@northerncomputer.ca)



## What is meant by "secure"?

Anytime you view a website information is sent from your computer to the web server and from the web server to your computer. The transmission of this information is normally sent in "plain text", meaning anyone would be able to read it should they see it. Now consider this: Each piece of information transmitted traverses many computers (servers) to reach its destination.

Windows Users, to see just how many machines your information traverses, follow these steps:

- 1) On your computer, click Start, then Run
- 2) Type "cmd" and click "OK" (or press Enter)
- 3) Type this in exactly: `tracert www.northerncomputer.ca`
- 4) Press Enter

Each listing in the window is a different computer/router/switch (a "node" in networking terms). Each "node" represents a point at which any data you send might be recorded!

So what's so special about this you ask? Consider this the next time you type in a password or your credit card number. If your connection isn't secure your credit card information and password are being transmitted in plain text. The solution? Simple, a secure browsing session or connection to the host server/computer.

SSL uses a complex system of key exchanges between your browser and the server you are communicating with in order to encrypt the data before transmitting it across the web. A web page with an active SSL session is what we mean when we say a web page is "secure". So the next time you are browsing a website, check out the prefix of the website. Is your bank site secure? Is the order window displaying your credit card for the world?

## How can I tell if a web page is secured?

There are two general indications of a secured web page:

Click [here](#) to read the rest of the article.