



# Types of Storage Media

The table below lists various types of storage devices that may be used to back up your data. We recommend that you use more than one method, as none of these should be used as your primary back up media. It is especially important to back up information stored on your computer's internal hard drive on a regular basis.

<p>CD-R or CD-RW</p> 	<p>What it is: A type of disk drive that can create CD-ROMs and audio CDs. A feature of many CD-R drives, called multisession recording, enables you to keep adding data to a CD-ROM over time. This is extremely important if you want to use the CD-R drive to create backup CD-ROMs.</p> <p>Capacity: 700 MB</p> <p>Advantage: Inexpensive, portable storage. Easy to label and store.</p>
<p>DVD</p> 	<p>What it is: A type of disk drive that can create DVDs. The biggest difference between a CD and DVD is space – a DVD can hold more than 4 times as much data as a CD.</p> <p>Capacity: 4.7 GB</p> <p>Advantage: Inexpensive, portable storage. Easy to label and store.</p>
<p>USB Flash Drive</p> 	<p>What it is: USB flash drives are typically removable and rewritable. USB flash drives offer potential advantages over other portable storage devices. They have a more compact shape, operate faster, hold much more data, have a more durable design, and operate more reliably due to their lack of moving parts.</p> <p>Capacity: 64 MB – 64 GB</p> <p>Advantage: Portable, small storage. Easy to transport.</p>
<p>External Hard Drive</p> 	<p>What it is: An external hard drive sits outside of your computer and is usually connected via a USB or Firewire port.</p> <p>Capacity: varies up to 1 TB</p> <p>Advantage: Store large amounts of data, most allow you to schedule automatic back up of data.</p>
<p>Internet-based</p> 	<p>What it is: Web-based storage, accessible from anywhere with an Internet connection. Some options are Microsoft Windows Live SkyDrive (pictured) and Amazon S3.</p> <p>Capacity: 25 GB free (SkyDrive), unlimited for a fee (Amazon S3)</p> <p>Advantage: Store large amounts of data, access data from any computer.</p>