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What is the Cloud? Part 4: What If I Just Want to Back Up My Data?

Last week, we discussed the different types of clouds most often used today. However, if you are not interested in the cloud, or it seems too complex, the following discussion provides some simple solutions to back up your data.

What if I Just Want to Back up My Data?

If you merely want to back up the data on your PC, laptop, or mobile devices and do not wish to have cloud access, there are many inexpensive and easy solutions.

You can back up your iOS devices through iTunes to Apple's iCloud through your PC or laptop. You can also back up your iOS data (photos, music, etc.) to an external drive or USB device connected to your PC or laptop. Likewise, if you have an Android device, you can also back up your data on your PC, laptop or connected external storage device.

You can purchase an external hard drive storage device for as little as \$50 for 1TB of data storage. These devices are easily connected to a USB port on your PC or laptop with a cable. If you do not need 1TB of data, you can also purchase a USB flash drive (also sometimes called "thumb" or "USB" drives) with 8GB of data storage for as little as \$10. These connect directly to your PC or laptop's USB port.

If you want to back up directly from your mobile device, you can also purchase a USB drive with an Apple "lightning" connection, which you can connect directly to your iOS mobile device. These can be as inexpensive as \$10 or even less for about 32GB of data storage. If you have an Android device, you can also purchase a USB drive with a USB connector that fits Android mobile devices. These also cost about \$10 (or less) for 32GB of storage.

All these solutions can provide a piece of mind in backing up your data, photos, music, etc. However, they will not give you the benefits of a cloud storage solution- the ability to access or backup your data anywhere through an internet connection.

Hopefully, these columns have helped explain what the "cloud" means and how companies provide and use various cloud solutions to support their internal operations or provide various services and solutions for consumers. I also hope you find it helpful to see how many options you have to store and manage

your data from the simple and inexpensive solutions to the more complex, secure, and expensive solutions.

Tech Coach Assistance

Tech Coaches are now providing remote Tech Coaching. Simply send an email to techcoach@laketravislibrary.org and one of our coaches will respond to assist you with any questions or challenges you have regarding cloud storage, or even help you set up your own private cloud.