

The KCS Enquirer

Information about the Computer Revolution

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*Back to Disk
Surveillance System Price Drop*

*New Web Page
Equus #1*

KCS News

Disk to Disk Backup- Its Time has Come

Backup to a hard drive was an expensive inefficient way to archive data. That is no longer the case. The advent of fast, high capacity inexpensive SATA (Serial Advanced Technology Attachment) drives has made disk to disk backup a cost effective and reliable backup technology. SATA drives are not only fast and cheap but have the capacity to store enough data to use them as a backup media. Hardware alone does not a backup system make. You must have the proper software that will work with the hardware to properly backup data so it can be restored correctly. Backup systems do not just copy files from the hard drive to another storage media they also verify data integrity, backup system files, registries and configurations, catalogue data, record and report any problems and store information in an easily restored format. The backup software is also required to restore all or part of the archived data. The newer versions of backup software, notably Backup Exec, our recommended system, will work with hard drive backup systems.

KCS Computer Technology Inc.

Novell Authorized Partner
Authorized Hewlett Packard Dealer
Microsoft Certified Professional on Staff
Certified Novell Administrator on Staff
Phone: **847-288-9820** Fax: **847-288-9822**
Web Page: www.kcstech.com
E-mail: sales@kcstech.com

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The disk to disk backup hardware consists of a CRU (Customer Removable Unit) dataport kit that fits into a 5 ¼" drive bay, drive carriers that hold the removable drives and the drives. Any drive size can be used up to the current 500GB maximum size. The system is scaleable - smaller drives can be replaced with larger drives at any time and backups can be spread over multiple drives.

Typical hardware pricing for a 250GB uncompressed capacity system is as follows:

Dataport & one drive carrier:
\$134.00.

Four additional drive carriers:
\$211.00

Five 250GB Drives: \$605.00

Total: \$950.00

Using one drive per day this would give you a five day backup rotation. The pricing for tape backup with 200GB uncompressed capacity would be:

Tape drive: \$2,354.00

Five tapes: \$300.00

Cleaning tape: \$52.00

Total: \$2,706.00

This is \$1,760.00 more than the disk backup system. If a SCSI card is required an additional cost of at least \$75.00 would be required. Also tapes would have to be replaced every year. A tape

drive with just half the capacity of the disk backup system would be about \$1,572.00, almost \$800.00 more.

Software pricing would be the same for either system. If you were upgrading your tape system to a disk system a software upgrade might be required but this would be a good idea under any circumstance.

In addition to the price advantage, disk backup is fast – about 3 times faster than a DAT (Digital Audio Tape) drive - a mainstream technology. Repairs, especially warranty repairs, are quicker and less expensive than tape drives. Tape manufacturers are becoming very

difficult to deal with, most notably on warranty claims. One of the disadvantages of disk backup is that the drives are heavier and larger than tape cartridges. They also can be damaged if dropped.

Overall the disk backup system is worth a close look. Most systems can be upgraded from tape to disk backup at a very reasonable cost. Talk to your KCS technician or call up for more information

SAS Drives

SAS (Serial Attached SCSI) drives are the newest technology in high performance disk drives. An improvement over parallel SCSI (Small Computer System Interface) these drives are much faster and hot pluggable – they can be added or replaced without shutting down the computer. In addition the drives have full duplex capabilities, two data ports for fail-over redundancy and they can communicate with SATA devices. SAS devices use thinner cables which can be longer than those for parallel SCSI. In addition up to 128 SAS devices can be connected to one controller versus 15 for regular SCSI. Prices are comparable to current SCSI drives but should come down as the technology evolves.

Exclaimer!!!!

Exclaimer is an e-mail enhancement program that we really like. It can add signatures, disclaimers, logos and branding to all or selected outgoing e-mail. It has an auto-response module that can send automatic “out of office” responses or automated responses to queries. Responses can include attachments and additional recipients can be added to both incoming and outgoing e-mails. Rule based mail blocking and re-direction is available with optional notification to a 3rd party of a blocked e-mail. A mail archiving module is also available.

This program works well with Microsoft Outlook and is very stable with some real nice features. Reports

from clients using it are very good. Call us for more information.

Web Page Redo

We have redesigned our Web page www.kcstech.com. Take a look at it when you have a chance. We would appreciate your feedback.

Equus Rated # 1

Our computer supplier, Equus Computer Systems, has been rated the number one preferred system builder in North America in a poll by Computer Reseller News – a trade publication. Results are available at <http://www.crn.com/sections/special/reports/csmagazine.jhtml;jsessionid=L0BBA0YZXZYAEQSNDBGCKHSCJUMEKJVN?ArticleID=187000211>.

MS News

Office 2007 May be a Winner

The initial reports on Office 2007 are generally positive. We have also been pleasantly surprised working with the beta (test) version. It appears that Microsoft has actually made some significant changes that will be beneficial for the average user. In the past, upgrades to Office did not focus on functions that most users needed but instead concentrated on the high level capabilities that most users did not need. For this reason we have not strongly recommended the last few upgrades. This release, due in early 2007, looks like it will be worth the money. In the 2007 version menus and toolbars are more informative and intuitive. However they are not so far removed from the latest Office versions that an experienced user would not be able to find their way around. The “Office” button in the upper left hand corner of Word and other common applications shows most, if not all the functions available for the program.

One of the best features is the “Live Preview” function. This allows you to see how changes to your document will look before applying them. It is especially nice when trying to select a

font, formatting style or color. Just mouse over (point to an item but not click on it) a menu item and your document will change to show how that selection would look.

You can try out the new Office by taking an on-line test drive or by downloading the beta version to your computer. If you download the beta version you can use it until February 2007 and then it will cease being fully functional. Go to <http://www.microsoft.com/office/preview/beta/testdrive.msp?showIntro=n>

to try out Office 2007. Don’t forget this is a test version and may have problems and could corrupt your current documents. If you save any documents with the test version that you may want to use with your current Office version make sure you save them so they can be opened with the older version.

It’s All Over for 98

Microsoft has dropped all technical support for Windows 98 and ME effective July 2006. If you haven’t upgraded, now is the time. Service Package 1 (SP-1) for Windows XP will also no longer be supported. You should upgrade to SP-2.

Surveillance System News

Lower Prices

We have added several new suppliers for our surveillance systems that have allowed us to offer systems at a much lower price. These systems have the same great features such as remote Internet access and digital recording. Call us if your need a quote or a re-quote.