

PC Heaven DOES Exist!

What happens when your computer goes to that happy place in the sky – by Emma Walker

You know your own computer as you get to know how it behaves (good and bad) and what noises it makes on a regular basis. But what do you do if it gets poorly?

I was minding my own business, working away when I realised my computer wasn't very well – it was making some funny noises so I decided we needed to take a look. Dear hubby came along to examine it to see what medicine we could give it to get better. On taking the covers off it was obvious that it was overheating – fairly easy to fix or so we thought!

But then, it decided to give up the ghost for good and go to sleep...aaahh. Didn't want to start up as it was dead but not a problem, I have a laptop and I had dutifully backed up the data on my external hard drive. I plug in hard drive to get the transfer started so that I could continue running my online businesses as usual the following day, but disaster strikes, the external hard drive doesn't work! Cue picture of unhappy person threatening bodily harm to the computer and hard drive via the nearest window.

Still, not a problem, I know a good IT repair person so we will be able to get the computer fixed or retrieve the data from the original hard drive. Doctor comes along to take a look and advises that best bet is get a new base unit and try to retrieve the data via a clean lab – so my hard drive goes for a little holiday to Ireland for the specialists to get to work trying to retrieve the data. I await news anxiously but feeling optimistic, bad things don't happen to me!

But then I get the call, my data cannot be retrieved – all files, emails and photos are gone. Picture forlorn and stressed person realising what information was actually on the hard drive – so much work gone as well as photos of my daughter from the minute she was born to her 21 months of age.

So now I have got to start from scratch, have realised that some documents are gone forever and that my computer has gone to a better place.

So what have I learned?

Keep a log of what software you have on your computer

If you need to get a new computer, it can be quite difficult to remember exactly what software you had on your previous one. Therefore, keep a manual log (not as a document on your computer) of what software you have, whether it is a CD or download, any relevant activation codes etc.

Take regular back up of your emails and contacts

You should be taking regular back ups of your documents but you must also include your emails and contacts as well.

Use online back up software together with local back ups

On my new PC I have started using a web based system to run in the background and automatically back up everything but I am also going to be using my laptop as an extra back up facility for all my precious photos of my young daughter and other really important documents so that I have them at

hand immediately.

Have an IT person you can call upon on your team

Whilst you are out networking, build relationships with IT people who you will be able to have on your team should anything happen and you need support.

About the Author

Emma Walker is the owner of [CKPA Office Solutions](#), a UK based Virtual Assistant and Online Business Manager company.

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