

Suppose you had a budget of \$500 and you wanted to provide several choices of removable storage and/or backup devices for your personal computer, choose and list the optimal mix of storage devices for your personal computer within that budget and give your reasons. What trade-offs among storage devices can be realistically accomplished?

My needs fall into two categories: files that I need to take with me to and from work, and the ability to backup my entire system.

For portable storage, a file briefcase to take to and from work, store my music, and electronic libraries, a 16GB flash drive does the trick. It fits in my pocket or can be worn around my neck, and plugs into any computer with a USB port. These run between \$40 and \$70.

I considered an external hard drive, kept off-site as a means of backup; however, such a device has to be brought onsite at some point to synchronize the files. Plus, since external hard drives are subject to getting bounced around and jangled as they travel, there is the fear of the drive being damaged. This fear is less-so with the emerging solid-state drives, but they are also less than optimal compared to other offsite storage strategies.

The remaining \$430 could buy 86 years of unlimited online storage. With FTP synchronization tools making it possible to upload only those files that have been changed, keeping bandwidth usage down, this is a great way to backup the entire system offsite, where it won't be subject to the house burning down. Online storage can also serve as a means of having access to your files anywhere you have an Internet connection; however, the flash drive is still important for being a quicker method of accessing data.

Google Product Search, *Corsair Flash Voyager USB flash Drive – 16 GB*. Retrieved January, 28, 2009 from the google.com website:

http://www.google.com/products/catalog?hl=en&q=flash+drive&um=1&ie=UTF-8&cid=132773927437176279&sa=X&oi=product_catalog_result&resnum=3&ct=result#ps-sellers

Data-Backup-And-Storage, *Learn About Data Backup! Secure your vital hard disk information!* Retrieved January 28, 2009 from the data-backup-and-storage.com website:

<http://www.data-backup-and-storage.com/>