



One of the most important things for any business utilizing computer technology is having a current, working, reliable, and regularly tested backup of their critical data. For the SMB market, years ago this was limited to on-site backup using a tape or cartridge rotation. Over the past five to seven years, online backups have become more and more accessible as the associated costs have lowered, bringing that as either a single solution or as a supplement to the current on-site backup. Now and over the past few years a more comprehensive has also become reachable by the small business sector: off-site image backups that can be brought online to be used while on-site hardware is worked on in the event of a failure.

This sort of technology has been around for a bit; however, it was cost prohibitive for a lot of small businesses. Costs associated with this started in the low to mid 4 figure mark for entry level devices. Currently there are services a business can subscribe to which will allow for a device to be put on the network and back up one or more servers or computers and provide both local backup for fast data retrieval and also a cloud based backup. One of the great features of this cloud based backup is that it can be activated if needed to act as a virtual clone of the backed up on-site server or computer. This can be a great benefit to any company that relies on data stored on site. As an example, if a server were to go down, naturally it cannot be accessed locally. While it is being worked on, employees could be unable to perform critical business operations, dramatically reducing their productivity, or in a worse case bringing the business to a halt altogether. Depending on the severity of the problem with the server or computer, this could last for days while hardware is being fixed or purchased, software re-configured if necessary, etc. With the ability to have a virtual copy turned on in the cloud and then some configuration in the office, this could be reduced to as little as a few hours or less. There are also options to have an on-site device capable of this same thing, which increases speed and reduces the downtime even further, and can be activated remotely – even using an app on your smartphone! The best part? These services can cost as little as \$100 a month (depending on level of services desired and amount of data to be backed up)!

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## The State of Solid State Drives

Josh Hewitt

Most of the time, your computer data is stored on a hard drive that is on a spinning platter (think vinyl record player). When you go and open several programs, you may hear the grinding sound of it furiously reading. As of this article, the cost of a solid state drive has gone down from what they used to cost and are quite affordable for a desktop / laptop drive replacement. What is a solid state drive? It is an all memory based data drive with no moving parts. A solid state drive, or SSD, has many benefits which could be vital to your day to day operations.

Imagine your laptop, with the spinning platters at 5000+ rotations per minute. Remember what happens if you bumped a vinyl player (or cd player)? It would skip, and even possibly cause damage to the disc or record. This same idea applies to that same hard drive in your desktop or laptop. The main advantage of the SSD is there are no moving parts, so less worry about any "skipping" or damage upon bumping or moving. The other main advantage is that without the moving parts, there is less power being used and could actually help gain some battery life on a laptop! The biggest and most obvious of advantages has to be the speed. Files could open much faster, and boot times could be seconds compared to minutes.

### HDD vs SSD



The biggest things to remember are that with these drives, there are still limits in conjunction with older hardware. If you have a machine that is 5+ years old, you may not gain much. Recently, most companies are starting to provide the option to having a SSD with newer desktops and laptops. Most desktops and laptops have the ability to handle a SSD, and M&H will be more than happy to assist in transferring your data from your old and slow hard drive. We provide the professional knowledge to carry over your data, and breath fresh air into your computer. If this is something you would like look into, please feel free to contact any of our techs and will can evaluate whether this would be a good choice for your business by calling 866-9MH-TECH (866-964-8324) or e-mail [support@mhconsults.net](mailto:support@mhconsults.net).

