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## The Rebit Backup System = Total Computer Backup

I suffered a computer hard drive failure about 3 years ago. At the time I was already in the habit of frequently backing up my personal computer files, so computer recovery was only extremely time consuming. It would have been a disaster if I didn't have the Dell recovery disks that came with my computer, my purchased programs, the software that came with my printers, and the software that came with the other peripheral equipment that I use with my computer.

Rebit, Inc has developed a new automatic backup system that would have made my computer restoration a breeze. Their Rebit backup drive automatically copies everything that is on your computer; including, the operating system, software that you installed, and the files that you created. To say this as succinctly as possible, if it is on your computer Rebit will find it, copy it, and place it at your disposal. If you need to restore a single file or perform a total restoration to a new or reformatted hard disk drive, Rebit makes it quick and painless.

Could backing up your total computer actually be this simple? I attached the drive and let Rebit do its automatic thing. It copied my operating system, software, and files as promised. The process was so simple that I felt it necessary to ask Rebit Inc. specific questions about the Rebit backup process. If I was going to recommend this drive to you, in these tight economic times, you were going to need as much information as possible to determine if this backup system was worthy of your precious dollars.

My contact at Rebit was Dennis Batchelor a co-founder of the company and its current Director of

Customer Relations. I hope you will find my questions and his answers (blue text) informative.

1. The Rebit drive doesn't get tagged with a drive letter? Why?

The Rebit software removes the drive letter from the device for a couple of reasons. First, the device is intended to be differentiated from the typical backup hard drive. Instead, the appliance approach suggests that this single-purpose backup device is designed for simplicity. Secondly, it prevents the temptation of average users to store a music or video collection on the device or explore the contents and interfere with the system.

2. If I understand the process the drive is not only copying all the software you install on a computer, it also copies Windows XP or Vista. How does it copy files that are running?



The Rebit software utilizes the Microsoft Volume Shadow Copy Service to make reliable copies of the operating system and other critical files required for full system recovery. This is a key part of the value proposition.

3. Does Rebit create multiple software and backup points so one can recover your old drive or format a new one without transmitting the original problem if the failure was caused by software?

Yes, Rebit creates "Recovery Points" which represent the collection of files (operating system, application, user data, etc.) and folders necessary to "recover" the system to a previous state. The Recovery Points are created every 24 hours...A person could recover the computer to yesterday (or any day prior to that with a Recovery Point) to precede the virus infection.

4. A notebook computer will probably have spotty attachment times to the drive. How does this backup solution handle frequent re-attachments?

We recognized...there may be short periods of time available to copy files. The system intelligently determines what needs to be copied...based on proprietary algorithms. Therefore, only the required set of files are copied each time the device is available to the system for backup.

5. Is it safe to remove the drive without first clicking on the "Safe to remove Hardware Icon" to stop the unit? Please provide an appropriate procedure for shut down of the Rebit drive without turning off the computer. Most USB devices can just be unplugged.

The question regarding the safe disconnect is a good one. While utilizing the "Safe Disconnect" feature is ideal, the system is designed to recover from an event where the device is disconnected without using the feature. There remains, however, a small chance that disconnecting the device could cause corruption to the file system...so we encourage users to utilize the safe disconnect feature.

6. Can a hard drive replacement be asymmetrical in design; whereby the replacement drive is larger or smaller than the one it is replacing? The replacement drive may be equal to or larger than the original.

Rebit is almost magical in how it backs up every digital artifact that is on your computer. If you have a catastrophic computer failure you just need to pop in the Rebit CD and let it restore every digital morsel to the recovery point of your choosing; to a new or your old reformatted hard drive.

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*Dr. Alan J. Pierce is co-author of **Introduction to Technology Glencoe McGraw-Hill 2010** and a **TechDirections Magazine** Columnist. Visit [www.techtoday.us](http://www.techtoday.us) for past columns and resources.*