Minutes: Jan. 21, 2021

Attendees: Sharon D., Dennis G., Eva H., Ginger K., Sajeda M., Howard P., Richard S., Sheila T.

Presentation: Backing up your computer

Howard Pell did a presentation explain numerous aspects relating to computer backups:

1. Use of thumb drives
2. Use of portable hard drives (recommended)
3. Cloud backup
4. Software relating to computer backup
   Mac *Time Machine*
5. Storage of backups

More detail

Howard recommended many things in talking about backing up your computer. He cautioned that a crash or loss of data is really an inevitable occurrence in the life of almost any computer user. He added that other disasters can lead to total loss of your computer and your data, fire, flood. He also cautioned that malware, viruses can destroy what you have worked hard to create.

Restoration of data is a horrendous problem if a backup system is not used. There is loss of programs, loss of computer settings besides loss of data. To restore these losses manually becomes a dreadful task: downloading and reinstalling all your software, finding all your licence codes, serial numbers, never mind restoration of you written material, saved records and photos. This become a near impossibility when done manually. Hence, the need for a computerized backup process to a portable hard drive.

Howard recommend purchase and use of a portable hard drive (1Tb size) which he recommends be kept at completely different location rather than in the same as your computer, the home of a neighbour, a friend, a family member but elsewhere than in your own home.

Howard also weighed the pros and cons of Cloud storage vs portable drive. His preference is the hard drive as it has absolute minimum risk of other people accessing your material.

Time Machine, the Mac software, was demonstrated and presents itself as being very easy to use, practical and cost effective but its disadvantage is its use is limited to the Mac system.

Richard supplemented Howard's comprehensive explanation with comments:

1. Cloud companies may be less risky that Howard emphasizes because they worry about public image and loss of clientele;
2. *auto-save* vs. manual saving procedures in writing (Richard prefers manual saving as he controls when and what version of material is saved);
3. WIN10 system backup (portable drives purchase often includes backup software);
4. WIN10 now has a default backup system built into its operating systems;
5. Creation and use of 'restore points' on one's computer;

The presentation covered much material and the way Howard presented it, the M *Time Machine* really does look like a useful and favourable way of backing up computers. Microsoft Windows users have useful alternatives but as Richard points out, the Windows ones are not as versatile or user friendly as *Time Machine.*

Both Howard and Richard offer assistance if users wish more help.

Availability of meeting record
Richard has a video recording of the presentation available upon email request.

Invitation to other writers
Please extend an *open invitation* to other writers to join our WAG presentations and consider joining our group. Most likely this meeting will have convinced you that we have valuable, practical and useful information to share with our association members.

Upcoming Presentation

MEDIA KIT   Feb   Dennis, G.

SCRIVENER   Mar   Howard, P.

SCAPPLE   Mar   Howard, P.

PUBLISHING: self vs commercial   Apr   Eva, H.

SOCIAL MEDIA   May   Ginger, K.

Minutes prepared by Richard Szpin