Getting Ready for the Hurricane Season - A Computer Perspective

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We prepare ourselves and our houses for the hurricane season; we can also do a few things to our computers to get ready for a hurricane or other type of disaster.

Our power is notoriously unreliable in South Florida. So protect your computer tower with a battery backup. This type of unit is a step above a surge protector, having a backup battery inside to prevent your computer from crashing due to a sudden loss of power. It will provide 5 to 30 minutes of emergency power for your computer and will shut your computer down normally in the event of a sudden power loss.

Also, raise your computer tower a few inches off the ground as a precaution against the risk of a flood.

The most important precaution you can take is to be sure you have a proper backup plan for your computer. Your data is worth far more than your computer; you want to have your data backed up and ready to restore in case of emergency. Business owners should also include off site storage in their backup plan; you will be glad you did so if your primary location becomes inaccessible.

Some backup software stores the backed up data in specially formatted files that are only readable by that software's restore functions. In such a case, restoring to another computer requires a boot disk or an instance of the program available on the second computer. For a backup plan to be effective, you must be able to restore your data properly and quickly. You might perform a trial run of your data restore procedure to ensure that your backup plan is effective.

If you choose to use a cloud backup, remember that you may not have access to your data after a hurricane because your internet or cellular service may be interrupted.