

Protect records before trouble

By: WINSLOW MASON JR. (Sat, Jun/10/2006)

With the start of hurricane season — and the threat of summer storms — now is the time for businesses and home computer owners to think about protecting important data.

But many don't, said Robert Dyke, president of Willow Computer Services Inc. in Willow Grove.

Studies show 50 percent of small- and medium-sized companies will go out of business within three years if they can't recover their data within 24 hours of a disaster such as a hurricane or severe lightning storm, Dyke said.

"The biggest thing is people don't back up their data," he said. "In severe storms, they can lose everything."

It can cost anywhere from a few hundred to a few thousand dollars to develop a system or procedure to protect important data from a natural disaster, Dyke said, depending on the size of the company.

"In today's small business environment, you don't spend money unless you absolutely have to," said Tom Gallagher, owner of Tom Gallagher Systems Consulting in Middletown. "But most people don't realize how important it is to have a backup plan for their data until they lose it. If you've ever had to re-create a database of 500 customers, you know it's worth it to have a backup plan in place."

"It is far cheaper to take some basic actions now than to have to try to recover crucial, sensitive and important data after a storm or natural disaster," said David A. Milman, CEO of Rescuecom. The franchise company, which has a location in Middletown, provides on-site computer repair and support.

Dyke said serious business owners should take this time to update their existing computer backup plan or develop one if they don't have one.

"If you're serious about business, you've got to be serious about protecting it," he said.

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