

This is a description of my current image processing system with respect to how I have the hardware and data flows organized for backup security. It's geared around a Mac OS X (Leopard or later) system, but the ideas could be applied to any system given different software, etc.

Hardware: (currently implemented on a MacBook Pro 13")

Internal boot drive, 500G
External data drive, 1T
External Time Machine backup 1T
External native raw backup 1T
External archive1, 2T RAID mirrored
External archive2, 2T
External archive2-remote, 2T

Software:

Time Machine (supplied in Mac OS X) :: incremental backup
Backup (supplied with MobileMe account) :: incremental backup
ChronoSync (by Eon Technologies) :: file synchronizer
Super Duper! (by Shirt Pocket Software) :: volume duplication

Backup data flow:

- New image files are created in external data drive
~/Photography/Photo-Files directory structure.
- *Lightroom* catalogs on Internal boot drive in
~/Photography/Catalogs
- *Lightroom* set to create a catalog backup every day into
~/Photography/Catalog-Backups/
- *Time Machine* continuous backup internal boot drive,
~/Photography/Catalogs is excluded
- End of day*, *Chronosync* software syncs ~/Documents, ~/Office
and ~/Pictures to archive1.

- End of day*, *Chronosync* synchs
~/Library/Application Support/Adobe/Lightroom to external
data drive /Photography
- End of day, *Chronosync* synchs ~/Photography/Catalogs (sans
previews) to external data drive /Photography
- End of day, *Chronosync* synchs external data drive /Photography to
Archive1
- End of day, *Chronosync* synchs Archive1 to Archive2.
- Monthly, archive2 swaps places with archive2-remote (offsite stor-
age, most I can lose is a month's work and records)

* End of day automated, or on demand. I run the backup system after each time I import new photos into the system, actually, and whenever I'm going to take a break and leave the computer for a while.

Other:

- Using *SuperDuper!*, clone Internal boot drive to a spare external boot drive any time a significant amount of configuration changes have accumulated.
- Using *Backup*
:: daily backup of critical financial files to iDisk online storage

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