

- Legacy Tip of the Month -

Thanks to Don Finel for sharing this with us!

When people ask what the most important thing they can do to protect their data, we always say "make sure you have backups of your database". We then usually go on to tell them that they should keep backups of their databases off-site so that if something happened to their home they wouldn't lose the backups they stored there.

There are a number of ways to do this; put a backup disk in a safe deposit box, mail a backup disk to a family member, upload a backup to your server (if you have one), etc.

Here's another way to save an off-site copy of your backup (or multiple backups), and still have instant access to them if you ever need them.

First, create a free email account with a dependable web-based e-mail provider like GMail or Yahoo. Both of these let you save received emails online with the ability to easily search for archived emails.

Second, create a backup in Legacy (File > Backup from the main menu). Just save the backup to your hard drive in a folder you will remember, (like My Documents).

Third, log into the gmail or yahoo mail account, and create an email to send. Enter your own gmail or yahoo email address as the recipient (in other words send the email to yourself). Enter a subject like "RootsMagic Backup". Then click the link to attach a file to the email. This is where you will select that RootsMagic backup .zip file you just created. Then click Send to send the email with your backup attached to yourself.

Finally, when you receive that email with the attached backup, just archive it.

You now have a backup copy of your database archived in your email account.

You can do this on a regular basis without really making a dent in the large amount of space the email providers give you.

If you ever need to restore a backup, you can log in to your email account, search for "Legacy Backup" and you will see all the emails you sent with the backups attached. Select the one you want, download the attachment, and restore that backup.