WORLD BACKUP DAY
MARCH 31
Don't be an April fool! Back up your data and devices.

Why are backups important?

**UW APS 2.6 states:**

"University of Washington shall...appropriately protect the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of institutional information that it creates, receives, maintains, or transmits."

A failure to back up data could lead to unavailability of institutional information; impact the work of students, faculty, and staff; and cause reputational harm to the University.

What are the threats to data and devices?

- **Lost and stolen devices**
  A major cause of breaches is exposure of data on lost or stolen devices. Backing them up will help determine what data is at risk.

- **Hard drive & hardware failures**
  It’s a hard fact: hard drives fail! Keep important data backed up on an external or network drive.

- **Ransomware**
  Cybercriminals can lock up your files and make them inaccessible until a sum of money is paid. Sometimes they fail to unlock the data even if the ransom is paid.

- **Earthquakes & other disasters**
  Multiple copies of files, devices, and systems will speed up recovery after natural disasters and other catastrophes.

Should I back up data just one day a year?

**NO!**

March 31 is a day of awareness to back up your data and devices frequently. Every day if you wish!

What to do

- Back up all data and devices that you are responsible for.

- Use multiple methods or formats to back them up.

- Ensure that at least one backup is not connected to your computer, as backups that are connected can become infected by ransomware and viruses.

**RESOURCES**

UW Administrative Policy Statement 2.6, Information Security Controls and Operational Practices

UW Office of the Chief Information Security Officer
ciso.uw.edu