VISUAL ACCOUNTING NEWSLETTER – DECEMBER 2017

Crash Plan Replacement Recommendation

With Crash Plan's Home Edition being phased out in October 2018, it was important to look at a reasonable replacement for the program at an equally reasonable cost. After extensive analysis, I believe that the best fit for most personal and small business users will be a product known as I-Drive. While this does not match all of the features that Crash Plan currently provides, no product did, it came closer than any other product.

One thing that it will not provide is compatibility with Crash Plan's Historical Backups. The only way to continue this would be to convert to Crash Plan's new Business only product. This would cost $30 in the first year and $120 per year thereafter, per computer. If users were to initiate I-Drive in advance of the October 22nd deadline, this would alleviate some of that concern.

The cost of the I-Drive Personal Account is $69.50 per year and this includes unlimited devices and a storage limit of 2 terabytes (2000 gigabytes) per account. Other plans are available with higher storage limits and associated costs. All prices quoted for any of these products are in U.S. dollars, so take that into account as well. Some discounts for people converting from Crash Plan are available for 1 & 2 year plans. If you need to backup complex server databases then you will need the I-Drive Business product which provides specialized Server Database Backup functionality at a substantially higher cost per gigabyte. Pricing is available at: https://www.idrive.com/pricing

For some users with more limited requirements the I-Drive free account may be workable. This provides only 5gb of on-line storage but local storage to another hard drive is unlimited. Different file sets can be scheduled for the local backup to do the more elaborate backup, to a portable hard drive, for example. Unfortunately, local backups do not support the multiple versions of files the same as the on-line backups do, so that is something of a limitation of the free account. It's also the reason that we often create two backup strategies to offset these limitations.

I-Drive Backup Features / Comparisons

For videos to review its operation visit:
https://www.idrive.com/videos

To compare I-Drive to other online backups visit:
https://www.idrive.com/idrive-vs-competition

For a quick review of its functional features visit:
https://www.idrive.com/online-backup-features

A quick review of major features would include:

1) PC, MAC & Linux compatibility.

2) Backup data locally and online which is transmitted/stored with 256 bit encryption.

3) Free account options and the capacity to backup unlimited devices under a single account up to the plans storage limit for a single reasonable annual fee.

4) Deleted file retention for up to 30 days.

5) Restore data as of a date with Snapshots.

6) This account can be shared by multiple users within the same company, family or group of friends but the account will be registered to a single e-mail address.

7) Manage multiple computers on the same screen with the online Web Console.

8) Sync specific folders for a group of users to share files, spreadsheets, photos, etc. This does not affect overall storage limits.

9) A winner of a number of backup software reviews beating out products that are far more expensive. PC Magazine Best backup product award over several years.

There are still some limitations relative to Crash Plan but I-Drive seems like a good fit for both personal and small business functionality. Please contact us if you would like further information.