Norton Ghost Backup Software
By Ron Mettler January 13, 2007

A. Why should I perform backups of data files?
1. Because every computer hard drive has a 100% chance of failure at some point in time. If you keep one copy of your files, you will lose them.
2. Because of outside threats, it is possible that your hard drive can be trashed by a virus through your e-mail or from the Internet.
3. Accidental erasure of files can occur.

B. Why should I perform backups of the operating system and installed programs?
1. The same reasons as in the above.
2. The reinstallation of the Windows operating system can be very time consuming. After the original Windows disk is used to reinstall the system, security upgrades, service pack upgrades, and other upgrades can take many hours to complete. It can take days for a computer without broadband access.
3. The reinstallation of drivers for hardware devices can be confusing and difficult for the faint of heart or inexperienced computer user.
4. The installation of all of the prior installed programs can be difficult. The original install disks or files are required. If shareware programs were purchased by downloading and the original files were not backed up, the programs may have to be purchased again.

C. What is needed to have a good backup system?
1. Reliable, periodic and automatic routine to assure that all files are backed up consistently.
2. For program and operating system files, a simple backup routine does not provide a means to reinstall the operating system and program files. Image backup is required for the Windows operating system and for windows programs.

D. Norton Ghost 10 – what does it do?
1. Backs up the entire hard drive in an image format. Can duplicate an existing drive to a new drive.
2. Can be set to update the backup on a daily/nightly basis by adding only those files that have been changed since the last backup.
3. Can be set for a periodic complete new backup on a monthly basis or some other suitable interval.
4. Allows for the recovery of individual files, folders, or the complete hard drive using any daily/nightly recovery point.

E. What does it cost to set it up?
1. Norton Ghost cost is about $55.
2. A second hard drive is needed for the backup files. The drive can be an internal or external drive, $75 - $250 range. Adding an internal drive is the least expensive.