

# Mozy

www.mozy.com

*Automated online backups*

## **what is it?**

As computer hard drives have grown in size, the amount of information we store on our machines grows. From important documents, emails and photos of our families, our computer's storage is filled with stuff we don't want to lose. Online backup services such as Mozy simplifies storage and backup of your desktop and laptop computers for a low monthly cost.

## **educational use?**

Not sure where to keep years of research data, articles, and lecture material? Setting up a Mozy account insures that in a worst case scenario (e.g., an unrecoverable hard drive crash or the loss of a laptop computer) that you do not lose all of your valuable files.

Encouraging students to back up their machines is a good practice as well. Don't let your graduate students end up with a thesis or dissertation that disappears with a smoking computer.

## **pros & cons?**

With cloud computing becoming more popular, there are a variety of places to store data. Flickr can easily store your images, for example, and Google Docs allows users to upload and store any document type. What Mozy provides is a behind-the-scenes process that can quietly back up everything on your computer without any intervention on your part.

One important point—Mozy files are backups. If you delete a file on your computer, Mozy deletes it from the backup. Backups only mirror what's on your computer. Also, keep in mind that the initial backup can take hours (if not days) as gigabytes of data must transfer from your computer to the Mozy server.

## **what's it cost?**

The service is free for 2GB of storage. Currently Mozy offers two types of paid back up plans: 50gb for \$5.99 a month or 125gb for \$9.99 a month.

## **alternatives?**

Two alternatives to Mozy are Carbonite (<http://www.carbonite.com>) and SOS Online Backup (<http://www.sosonlinebackup.com>).

## **resources?**

For a review of several services see:  
<http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,2817,2288745,00.asp>