



[Save the Last Document: Tips for Avoiding Data Loss](#)

Video interview with David Smith, PhD, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs and Associate Professor of Economics

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David Smith: Hard drive failure is really an inevitable, it's not a question of if your data will crash, it's a question of when. So individuals really need to get into a regular flow in their business practice of saving their data and the easiest mechanism available. In some cases that may be back up drives, external hard drives. In many cases companies have employed servers which can back up data and that's a very effective way of saving data.

The study that Professor Michael Lams and myself worked on, used PC's as the operating system of interest. But data loss is a problem for all sorts of operating systems, all sort mechanisms or places that we keep data from our cell phones, from our PDAs, anywhere that data is stored on a chip, you're gonna have data loss and it's a significant problem. I do think that any operating system that makes the backup and recovery of data seamless and easy for the user is going to have an advantage because the user's more likely to use it and so to the extent that Mac's utilized this technology I think that's a promising sign.

I think there's a concerted effort on the part of software programmers and companies in the IT industry to address the issue of data loss and to the extent that those mechanisms, software, seamless operations can be integrated into the operating system in an easy way I think is of benefit to the users and can help mitigate the problems we see with data loss.



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Businesses need to find ways to make sure that data back up and data loss prevention is a regular part of your business processes. Their employees need to be trained on the easiest mechanisms to back up data, it just needs to become part of the culture to recognize that data loss is inevitable, it will occur and the best way to avoid the cost of data loss is to regularly back up your data.

Network DLPs or data loss prevention systems I think hold a lot of promise in that there's a trend for data to move from the back office to the front office which supply chain management systems, customer relationship management programs. A lot of the data is moving to the front of the operation. Data loss prevention systems can help ensure that the data that's on the front end that's in the hand of the sales force is protected and secured and backed up in an appropriate manner.

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