

10 Things every computer owner should know and heed

From security to backing up routinely, stay ahead of the problems before they develop, and safeguard your data.

Making regular backups of your computer's data would most certainly be near the top of the 10 commandments of computing if there were such a list. Needless to say that no such tablets exist as far as I know. But there are certain things one should do to insure that your computing experience will always be a happy one. If I had to come up with such a list, the following would be my best shot at it.

- 1) Always use an Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) with your computer. (You never know when the power will go out).
- 2) Always make regular, scheduled backups of your computer's data.
- 3) Always have some kind of anti-virus, anti-spyware, anti-malware or Internet security software in place.
- 4) Always secure your WIFI network with the best available encryption such as WPA2.
- 5) Choose your operating system wisely and not based on what someone told you to use.
- 6) Select your Internet access speed based on what you need and can afford, and not just on the fastest speed that's available in your area.
- 7) Spend the most you can afford on a new computer to help stave off obsolescence.
- 8) You probably don't need a mouse with more than three buttons and a scroll wheel.
- 9) Always use a router, a firewall and never connect directly to the Internet.
- 10) Always have an extra toner or ink cartridge for your printer nearby. (They always run out when the stores are closed and report is due first thing in the morning)

There you have it. No tablets and certainly no fanfare. Just some basic, common sense rules of computing that will keep you out of trouble.