

ICS partner: keepITsafe

When losing data is not an option



FOUNDED IN 2003, keepITsafe believes that business owners should not have to think or worry about backup. The company has provided a reliable, secure and affordable online backup solution to over 600 clients and 80 partners to date, including the Irish Computer Society. The company became a member of the ICS in 2007 and has had the opportunity to avail of the endless networking and information services available to them.

keepITsafe have enjoyed a successful first half to the year – doubling their customer base on the same period in 2007. The team is confident that this trend will continue to the end of 2008 as more and more companies become aware of the benefits fully managed online backup services can provide. The company will be launching Microsoft Navision online backup product to the market place over the coming months and re-launching their website to optimise online usage.

In an increasingly competitive environment, it is paramount for business owners to have a process



in place to backup their data, making sure that it complies with data protection. "Few companies realise their obligation to secure their data offsite under the data protection act" stated Eoin Blacklock, managing director keepITsafe. Here is a company checklist, useful for recognising how compliant you really are.

Keeping personal data secure: test yourself

As a minimum standard, you should be able to answer YES to the following questions:

- Is computer and manual file access restricted to authorised staff only?
- Is access to the information restricted on a "need-to-know" basis in accordance with a defined policy?

- Are your computer systems password protected?
- Is information on screens kept hidden from callers to your offices?
- Have you a back-up procedure in operation, including off-site back-up?
- Are all waste papers, printouts, etc. disposed of carefully?

keepITsafe's focus for the remainder of the year is to make companies more aware

of the benefits of using an online backup solution versus the traditional tape backup method and increase the number of users benefiting from the offsite backup service.

With technology advancements keepITsafe can secure vital data 24/7 in state of the art data centres both located in Ireland. By aligning their secure online backup solution with companies needs it has allowed keepITsafe to backup more than four 4 billion files and restore more than 30 million lost files over the last five years.

For more information on keepITsafe contact the team on 1890 222 587 or log onto www.keepitsafe.ie

Minding the gap: non-techies for IT jobs?

It is no news that Ireland is and has been experiencing an IT skills shortage. In the face of a grim economic outlook, the IT employment climate is a beacon in the night with forecasts estimating growth of up to 4.7% by 2011. The fact of the matter is that Ireland is just not producing enough qualified IT professionals to keep up with industry demand.

A recent UK study suggests that businesses may need to think outside of the box to hurdle the IT skills gap. The UK-based Association of Graduate

Recruiters released its summer review last month which recommended that employers may want to consider hiring non-technical staff to fill certain IT vacancies. Nearly a quarter of the 242 UK companies that took part in the survey said they will be affected by an IT skills shortage.

The report cites the head of information systems at Toshiba UK, Sandra Smith, who suggests that grads with non-technology degrees should not be discounted and that project management skills and teamwork are valuable assets in IT departments where business strategies and objectives are priorities. But how can a company make a non-technical person technical? Enter EUCIP.

Developed by CEPIS, the Council of European Professional Informatics Societies, EUCIP (which is a FETAC level 6) combines theory and practice into one programme. Students

get a global view of the IT domain while completing the three knowledge areas:

Build: covers the acquisition, development and implementation of information systems

Plan: teaches the use and management of information systems

Operate: addresses the operation and support of information systems

Each of the knowledge areas culminate in an exam. Despite being a relatively new entry-level professional IT certification in Ireland, EUCIP has already been recognised by Dublin City University. Holders of the EUCIP certification can apply for entry to DCU's Graduate Diploma in Information Technology.

This autumn EUCIP will be rolled out with flexible delivery methods including online e-learning combined with complementing workshops.

For more information on EUCIP contact Gwen Conlon at ICS Skills on (01) 6447841 or e-mail gwen@ics.ie

Business continuity and security conference

CROKE PARK is the place to be on Thursday, 11 September for IDC's 'Business Continuity and Security Conference 2008, Ireland'. With IT systems central to the successful operation of any business nowadays, protecting against unwarranted interruptions or data leakages is of paramount importance. These days an IT interruption is equivalent to a business interruption and data leakages are akin to value leakages of an organisation's capital. Against this backdrop, it is hardly surprising that business continuity is now further up the corporate agenda than it has ever been before. It is no longer viewed as a necessary burden but as an opportunity to increase productivity, retain customers and gain revenue, according to Martin Hingley, EMEA chief research officer, IDC, so the pressure is on IT professionals at all times to stay abreast of the latest developments in security and business continuity processes and technologies.

Featuring a diverse array of expert speakers and including a number of case studies drawn from across a variety of industry sectors, the day-long Croke Park event will cover all the latest trends and developments and offer advice on key concerns such as how to protect mission-critical operations, ensuring cost-effective protection of critical business data, and best practice in managed security services. Aimed at CIOs, IT directors, IT managers, network managers, and security and business continuity specialists, attendance is free for the first 100 end-user registrations received. Fees thereafter are €550 per delegate with only three attendees from each company allowed. Registration includes conference participation, documentation and access to presentation material, plus all refreshments and lunch.

For more details or to register, e-mail cteiro@idc.com or telephone Catherine Teiro on 0044 (0) 20 8987 7166. A full schedule of speakers and topics is available on www.idc.com/getdoc.jsp

Upcoming
ICS Events

ICS Data Protection Practitioner
Certificate 3-5 September 2008

To book your place e-mail dp@ics.ie

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