

## Commercial profile: keepITsafe

# The data backup debate: tape vs online

**D**ominic O'Brien, managing director of IT Computer Service, answers some questions about common misconceptions and pitfalls associated with tape storage.

### Why are so many businesses still using tape to store their data?

In a nutshell, they have not had to restore yet. This is when issues arise. Tapes cannot guarantee a full restore of data.

### What is the biggest mistake companies can make in relation to backup?

Taking the approach that 'data loss will never happen to me' or that they are relying on archaic methods of data backup and assume that their most valuable asset is safe.

### What is the biggest drawback to tape backup?

One of the main issues with tape backup is that it is a mechanical device that needs human intervention. Mechanisms break and human



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beings can forget to change the tape or take copies off site.

### Can online backup guarantee a restore of data?

Yes. The truth is that, unless you have a secure and encrypted way of storing your data in multiple data centres, your data is not 100 per cent secure and will not be available to you for restore.

### What is the main advantage of using online backup?

Online backup guarantees a full restore of your data, as all data is secured to multiple data centres. With the keepITsafe solution, all data is automatically encrypted before it is transferred offsite, which means it is also the most secure option for data backup. Backups are monitored and problems resolved instantly. Tapes can be lost, stolen and forgotten whereas a fully managed online backup solution cannot.

*IT Computer Service (ITCS) was established in 2003 to offer companies quality IT services. ITCS is a certified partner of keepITsafe and can be contacted on 01-8040410 or [www.itcs.ie](http://www.itcs.ie). For more online backup information, visit [www.keepitsafe.ie](http://www.keepitsafe.ie) or [www.onlinebackup.ie](http://www.onlinebackup.ie)*

