

Learning from Voldemort

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My wife and I are both big fans of the [Harry Potter](#) series. It seemed, after finishing the series, that Lord Voldemort had no redeeming qualities. Recent events, however, have convinced me that Voldemort has a valuable lesson to teach.

A few weeks ago my home computer died. I was a bit concerned that I could lose valuable data (including our home budget), but I knew that I copied over important files to a back-up location from time-to-time.

When I realized that the computer died of hard drive failure, I decided I better get the last back-up. I knew it would be a week or two old, but that wouldn't represent a major amount of work to get caught up. I checked the data on the file and saw: April 16 - more than 6 months old!

This represented a major problem - I couldn't recreate all of the data from that far back. I took the hard drive to CompUSA and hoped and waited.

As a result of this trouble, I bought a 500GB back-up drive and tried to get in better back-up habits. This paid off quickly, as my work laptop died while my home computer was still in the shop.

I purchased a new computer and copied over important data from the back-up. I had to reinstall my software, but I still had my work.

Thanks to Lucas at CompUSA, most of the data from my home computer was recovered. I lost some old vacation photos, which was disappointing, but good news overall. After several weeks, I got back my work laptop as well (losing nothing).

If you haven't figured it out already, here is how Lord Voldemort figures in to this:

He makes back-ups of himself!

Sure, in his case, this corrupted his soul and made himself more evil. In the land of computer, however, horcruxes are called "images" and a very good idea.

So, taking a lesson from Voldemort, I now have my 500GB drive networked so that I can (and now do) back-up files from any computer in the house. I also have [ShadowProtect](#) installed on my primary work computer so it creates images of my computer at regular intervals.

My next step will be to purchase an online back-up plan for especially important files. After all, Voldemort didn't keep all of his back-ups in one place and I wouldn't want all of mine to be destroyed if the house caught fire.

So, even Voldemort has some positive value!