

Backing Up Your Data Before You Depart

Annenberg International Programs
Pre-Departure Series

Why Should I Back Up All My Data?

- Greater risk of loss and theft of laptop when you are overseas
- Greater risk of damage to laptop when you are overseas
- Always good to do this periodically to ensure that you do not lose valuable, meaningful files such as music, photos, papers, etc.

Option 1: External Hard Drive

Pros:

- Very easy data transfer
- Will back up entire hard drive
 - If you had a new hard drive installed, it would allow you to reinstall your programs, applications, and files

Cons:

- One more thing to pack/store
- Can be costly compared to online options

Option 2: Online Archival

Dropbox, Google Drive, iCloud, etc.

Pros:

- No need to pack/store another item
- Cheaper than buying an external hard drive

Cons:

- Limited free storage
- Will only back up selected files and not your entire hard drive

Remember Though...

- This is good advice even if you are not traveling
- Cloud storage is a long-term investment if you have many large files to archive
- External hard drive is safer than cloud storage if you are concerned about privacy/security.