

After Hours Macintosh Consulting

PMB 167, 5910-129 Duraleigh Road, Raleigh, NC 27612 • 919-271-7479 • AfterHoursConsulting@att.net

CD archiving for the Mac

After Hours offers permanent data backup in the form of CD disk recording. CD-ROMs are excellent for storing vast amounts of data in any form for your Mac. Anything you can store on your hard drive can be written to a CD, graphics, scanned images, databases, letters, system files, music, video & more. CDs are stable, reliable media easily read by any computer with a CD-ROM drive.

Specifications: Each CD has the capacity for up to 650 Mb of information, either as single session or multisession (more than one recording session significantly reduces the available CD capacity).

Cost & Time: The base cost is one hour labor per CD session, with turn-around time usually less than 48 hours. Additional labor charges may apply for extended mastering, if required.

Requirements: You supply the data (recommended on SCSI Zip or Jaz cartridges, although any other format will work), prepared as you would like the information to appear on the finished CD. After Hours will master the CD to your specifications, and return all original media along with the CD archives upon completion. Special arrangements can be made for the data transfer off of your media; call for additional information.

Why do it?

All magnetic media will eventually become corrupt. Hard drives, SyQuest, Bernoulli, Tapes, Floppy Disks, Zip & Jaz cartridges -- they all rely on magnetized particles to hold the information you record to them. Over time, or due to exposure to heat, electrical fields (motors, speakers, magnets, even electrical cords), magnetic media "forgets" what is recorded to it. This may mean just the loss of one file, or the entire disk. Magnetic media also ages, like cassette tapes, slowly losing its flexibility and the "quality" of the recording. Occasional maintenance is required to keep a magnetic disk or tape from losing its information. This means, you have to make a backup of the information, reformat the disk or tape, then copy the information back on to the newly reformatted media. Most information experts recommend doing this every six months to a year.

CD recordable media has a projected lifespan of 100 years. They can be scratched and heat from fire or sitting on a hot car dash in the sun can ruin them, but overall, they are far more resilient than magnetic media. Protect your information permanently with an inexpensive CD backup. Quarterly, semi-annual or annual backups of your critical and not-so-critical information can save you hours or days of reinstallations, restoration of files, or recreating work. Compare how much your time is worth to how much a simple, elegant CD backup costs, and you'll find this practical method of data storage might fit your needs today. Call us for more details.