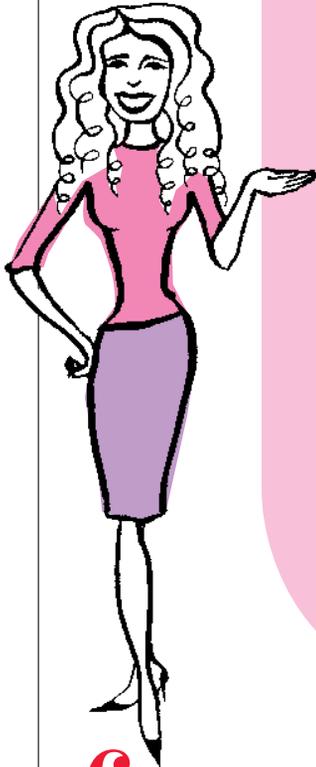


BY LAURA HELLER

## your photo lockbox



DIGITAL PHOTO STORAGE AT YOUR FINGERTIPS	PLANS AND FEES	WHAT WE LOVE
<b>HP UPLINE</b> stores data in a secure, central location on multiple online servers, keeping information safe if a server fails. Automatic backup is on a regular, pre-selected schedule. Access content from anywhere and share it with registered users. Access and share files from any computer, and upload from the server to a Web site or other location. Serves PCs only.	Three plans—Home/Home Office, Family, and Professional. Each offers unlimited storage. Monthly fees run \$59 to \$299 (upline.com).	New files or updates to them are automatically sensed and saved. Content is accessible from anywhere.
<b>CARBONITE</b> works through an installed application on your computer that operates quietly in the background, looking for new and changed files that need to be backed up. Data syncs only when the computer is idle or sleeping, meaning there's no interference while working. PC support. Mac support was pending at press time.	One flat fee of \$49.95 per year for unlimited space (carbonite.com).	Easy to use and simple fee schedule.
<b>MOZY</b> works through a software program. Once installed, it automatically backs up information at scheduled times and senses when a file or document has been added or changed. Mac and PC support.	Mozy Home for individuals offers 2GB of space for free; unlimited space is \$4.95 per month (mozy.com).	Ease of use, low fees, and automatic e-mail backup.
<b>SOS ONLINE BACKUP</b> continuously backs up data and automatically detects and saves any changes to files. Keeps an unlimited version history of all files, letting users access or share any version, anywhere with an internet connection. PCs only.	Plans for individual and home users are \$19.95 a year for 2GB of storage to \$49.95 a year for 15GB (sosonlinebackup.com).	Continuous backup, unlimited versions, and universal access to data.

# forever photos

Preserve your memories by keeping digital photos **in safe storage**

Chances are you have a digital camera. In fact, the technology has so effectively replaced film that Kodak has stopped making Kodachrome. Polaroid, too, has discontinued production of the instant film that made it famous. And with the end of film comes the end of negatives, of the physical presence of our photographs. Relatively few images are printed, and even fewer saved in a dedicated location. For better or worse, our memories are captured in pixels. How are you protecting yours?

Where and how we store our photos matters almost more than the camera we use. Why take beautiful pictures if we

don't protect them? And a shocking number of people just leave pictures on the camera card. Keeping images on the computer drive is better, but hard drives crash. So it's wise to have backup, especially because many simple and inexpensive options are available.

There are hard drives that connect to a computer or camera directly through the USB port, but that entails moving files manually. Slightly more advanced options allow for timed backups that download data from a home computer at a set time each day. Even better, try a mirrored drive that contains two (or more) hard drives that replicate each other; it's backup ►



Save photos on flashy flash drives (pantone.com/flashdrives).

PHOTOGRAPH: PETER KRUMHARDT

for your backup. If one fails, the other saves information and photos, further safeguarding your memories.

Models can be as beautiful as they are functional. There are wood-grain units for the mid-century modernist (SimpleTech's [re]drive), gold bricks for a bit of bling (LaCie), and the always classic Apple white.

Don't have dedicated backup? Flash drives work in a pinch, come in a variety of storage sizes, and are simple to use. Just plug the thumb-sized device into a computer's USB port and transfer the files. Available in a breadth of colors, shapes, and styles, the drives make great gifts, particularly when loaded with images.

The cost of this technology has dropped so dramatically, you can snag a terabyte of storage for a pittance. (A terabyte equals 1,000 gigabytes or one trillion bytes.)

Unless you're a professional photographer, it's probably more than you'll ever need.

Online photo-sharing sites are also available from many providers. Most offer free storage, editing tools, and the ability to share your photos with invited friends and family. But be careful. In many instances, your photos are at the mercy of the service. A breach of contract or agreement, and your images can be deleted. Once you've uploaded your images, often the only way to get them back is to buy a print. These sites are great for sharing with groups but are not secure backup storage. Rules and regulations vary from site to site and can change quickly.

An even more foolproof option is to rent storage space online. (Some providers are listed on page XX.) These services let you create a personal server much like the types that companies make available to allow users to log in from any computer and access stored files on a central location. Set it to automatically back up everything from a home computer or home network, and you have a virtual, fireproof storage locker. Isn't it comforting to know that someone, or something, has you covered? ■