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In the recent past, there has been an increasing need to restore computers to a previous point and a previous date. This has been found to be one of the safest ways of preventing loss of data that might arise from malfunctioning computer operating systems or programs in its current form. Restoring a computer to a previous date is a way in which computer systems can be set to function as if it were functioning on the set date. The main aim of doing this is to find a point in time when the computer worked properly and set it to that date so it functions as if it were from that date onwards. It's functionality and additional data that might have been added between that time and the current time is ignored and erased. In most cases it is these programs that had been added or the new data that might have resulted in the malfunction which then necessitates restore.

Malfunctions that lead to restoration to a previous date are mostly as a result of new data that has been added between the time the computer last functioned properly and the current time. Software especially whose data signature cannot be verified is the source of trouble in most cases. When these get integrated into the computer programs they interfere with normal computer operations. This restore would not be possible were it not for the computer backup systems. Computer backup systems are a way in which the functionality of a computer can be replicated or copied and kept. They are kept in the computer's own storage systems or on external storage systems. The internal backup systems are mostly automatic so that the computer automatically creates and stores the copy of functionality at intervals. It is these dates and copies of functionality that constitute the restore points at which the computer can be restored to a previous date.

Backups are also external. Here the computer functionality copy is stored in portable storage devices such as flash disks or large portable disks. Using programs that allow backup, the functionality is copied by users occasionally or at intervals. Backup systems are also internet based so that the functionality copy is done onto online based storage through the internet. When need arises for restoring a computer to a previous date, the computer may by itself determine a problem in functionality in its current form and prompt the user to restore it to a previous date when it functioned normally. This usually occurs during start up at which the computer automatically loads options to restore the computer to a previous date. The user simply just selects the restore option and has the computer restored.

Sometimes the computer restore process is more complex especially if it involves other programs such as data and record storage programs. Complete repair of the operating systems is therefore done, followed by installation of the programs that allow restoration of the computer program to a previous date.

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