

Mother Board

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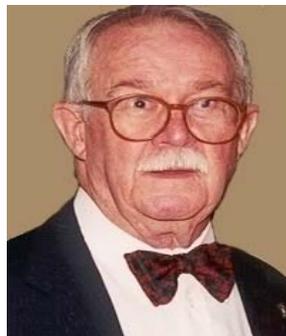
This Month At NOPC

Linux Update by Joey Kelly

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In Memoriam: Louis G. Dutel, Jr.



This past month, longtime club member Louis G. Dutel, Jr. passed away. A real estate attorney by profession, he also served on the NOPC Board of Directors and was instrumental in helping the club revise its charter. He led a fairly full life, serving in the US Air Force as a photographer and later having his own law practice. In addition to NOPC, he was a member of several other organizations, including a few Mardi Gras krewes. He is survived by a fairly large family and will be missed.

This Month at NOPCC

At one of our meetings in 2004 Mr. Joey Kelly spoke to us about Linux. Mr. Kelly will be our featured speaker at the June meeting where he will update us on Linux. Get ready to see a demo of Linux in action and have all your Linux questions ready.

Mr. Joey Kelly is a Linux consultant located in Metairie. He has been administering Linux servers for four years, and founded KellyNet Computer Services, a Linux company specializing in integrating Linux into the Windows business network. His favorite flavor of Linux is the SuSE Linux distribution, which he has been using on his primary desktop PC for four years.

Mark your calendars, create an entry in your Palm Treo 700wx, update Outlook and join us on Wednesday, June 6, 2007. The monthly meeting of the NOPC club starts at 6:30pm on the first Wednesday of every month. Location of the meeting is the J.D. Meisler school cafeteria at 3700 Cleary Ave. Metairie. Use the entrance through the breezeway on Pharr Street. For more information please visit our club's web site at <http://www.nopc.org>.

Also mark your calendars for our July meeting. The first Wednesday is July 4th therefore we will be holding our July meeting on a different day, time and at a new location. Our July meeting will be on Saturday morning, July 7th at the Jefferson Parish Library East Bank Regional location. The meeting will start at 9:30AM. The address is 4747 W. Napoleon Ave., Metairie, LA 70001. More details will be forth coming.

Backup Approaches Compared

By Gene Barlow
User Group Relations
Copyrighted May 2007

For the past few years, I have recommended the *Perfect Backup Approach* as the best way to backup your computer's hard drive (see www.ugr.com/newsletters.html). I have lectured on this topic, published a tutorial on it (see www.ugr.com/tutorials.html), and have personally advised many of my friends to use this approach. From my research, this is clearly the best way for end-users to backup their hard drives today.

I am always surprised when some users prefer a different backup approach to use. My concern is that they may not have given the various approaches a thorough comparison. I hope this article will help users compare the various backup approaches and learn why the *Perfect Backup Approach* is the best one to use.

Another factor to consider is what needs to be backed up on your computer. Your data files are important items that need to be backed up regularly. But that is not enough. Our computers are very complex and contain tens of thousands of files that are changing constantly. The effort to rebuild our computer software may take days or weeks to complete. Today, we must backup our entire hard drives and not just a few data files.

This article will compare the four most popular backup approaches in use today. I hope it will help you understand why the *Perfect Backup Approach* is the best of the bunch.

Four Backup Approaches

There are four backup approaches that are commonly used on personal computers today. These are the following:

- File Backup Approach
- Clone Backup Approach
- Full Backup Image Approach
- Full & Incremental Backup Image Approach
(aka *Perfect Backup Approach*)

I will briefly describe each of these four approaches and then try to describe the comparisons between these four approaches that concern most end users. **Acronis True Image 10.0 Home** edition is the only backup product on the market that can do all four of these approaches, so no matter which ap-

proach you choose, *True Image* is the best backup utility to use.

File Backup Approach: The File Backup Approach is the oldest and most common backup method used on personal computers. I would estimate that of the dozens of backup utilities available, 90% of them are file backup utilities. With this approach, you select which of the many files stored on your main hard drive to backup and the utility will copy each of these files individually to your backup device. It is possible to select all of the files on your main hard drive to backup, but this approach is not very good as we will see later.

Clone Backup Approach: This approach became popular a few years ago to let you adequately backup your entire hard drive. With the Clone (or Copy) Backup Approach, you make an exact copy of your main hard drive to another hard drive inside your computer. Then if anything happens to your main hard drive, you simply replace it with the cloned hard drive and you are up and running again. While this approach seems simple and straight forward, it is not a very efficient way to do backups today.

Full Backup Image Approach: The imaging approach copies the physical sectors of your main hard drive to the backup device instead of copying each file separately. So, the backups were much faster than individual file by file backups. Images could also be quickly restored to a new hard drive on your computer and let your computer be used again in a few minutes. The backup images could also be compressed to save room on your backup device. While much better than the first two backup approaches, this is not the most efficient way to store your backup images.

Full & Incremental Backup Image Approach: The next step in improving the backup technology came when Acronis introduced *True Image* that could make not only full backup images of your main hard drive, but could also make incremental backup images of just the changes to your hard drive since the last backup was made. This permitted frequent backups to be taken for maximum protection, but still conserves your backup storage space. Combined with an external hard drive to save your backup images on, this was the basis of the *Perfect Backup Approach* and is the best way to do backups today.

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Backup Approaches Compared

The following table compares the four backup approaches commonly used today to let you see how

one approach stacks up against the other approaches. The comparisons are kept small in size to let you quickly compare the various approaches.

(Continued on page 4)

File Backup	Clone Backup	Full Image Backup	Full/Incremental Image Backup	Full/Incremental Image Backup
Basic Approach	Individual files copied and condensed to backup device one at a time.	Entire hard drive copied to another hard drive.	Entire hard drive sectors are copied and condensed on backup device.	Entire hard drive or just changes to hard drive are copied to backup device.
Backup Device Types	Hard drive (external, internal, or network) drives, or CD/DVD.	Internal or external hard drives.	Hard drive (external, internal, or network) drives, or CD/DVD.	Hard drive (external, internal, or network) drives, or CD/DVD.
Individual File Backups	Yes	No	No	No
Full System Backups	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Backup Space	Used File Space	Entire Hard Drive	Used File Space	Only Changed File Space.
Backup Speed	Slow	Medium	Medium	Fast
Restore approach	Create & Format partitions. Install OS, restore individual files.	Place Cloned hard drive inside computer.	Restore image to new hard drive.	Restore full & incremental images to new hard drive.
Restored Items	Individual Files	Entire Hard Drive	Individual Files or Entire Hard Drive.	Individual Files or Entire Hard Drive.
Restore Speed	Very Slow & Complex	Medium	Medium	Medium
Worst Feature	Slow Backups. Poor backups of full system. Complex Restores of full system.	Requires new hard drive for each new backup. Need 3 as minimum.	Restore Image step required. Storage Space.	Restore Image step required.
Best Feature	Backup just a few files. Not really adequate today.	Simple physical replacement.	Quickly restore full hard drive.	Quickly restore full hard drive. Minimal backup drive space.

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I think that the *Perfect Backup Approach* will stand out as clearly the best of the bunch as you read this comparison.

Summary of Backup Approaches

The following is a brief summary of the various advantages and disadvantages of the four backup approaches.

File Backup Approach: This approach is generally the slowest method of doing a backup. You need to find and specify all of your files to be backed up by this approach, which can be time consuming and difficult to do. Its ability to backup your full hard drive and get it working again after a hard drive crash is poor and complex. I would only recommend this approach for backing up a few important data files. That leaves you exposed when your entire hard drive crashes. It's an old approach and complicated to use. Avoid the File Backup Approach.

Clone Backup Approach: This approach is sometimes used to protect you from a hard drive crash. It is not a very inefficient way to backup your entire hard drive since it requires an entire backup hard drive for each backup you do. A minimum of three physical backup hard drives would be required to do this approach decently. You also need to continually swap hard drives inside and out of your computer box with this approach. This requires you to be a computer mechanic or pay for extra hardware to help remove the internal hard drive without opening your computer box. This approach is costly and requires a lot of physical drive swapping for an inefficient way to do backups. Another approach to avoid.

Full Backup Image Approach: This backup approach uses modern technology to do its job. Backups are fast and cover your entire hard drive and not just a few selected files. While a restore is required to put your main hard drive back in operation, this is usually very fast. With condensed images, you can also store several full backup images on your backup device, so it is fairly efficient in the backup storage space. This is a good second approach to consider.

Full & Incremental Backup Image Approach: This is the *Perfect Backup Approach* that I have recommended for years. It is an excellent way to

backup your entire hard drive and you can rebuild a working hard drive in a few minutes. It is also an excellent way to backup your individual files that have recently changed. The incremental backup system makes this automatic and easy to do. Using the incremental images, you can save many backup images on one external hard drive. It is the fastest and most space efficient way to do your backups.

Acronis True Image 10.0 Home

The *Acronis True Image 10.0 Home* edition backup utility is the top rated backup utility on the market today. As I said earlier, it can do all backup approaches covered in this article. So, you can try them all without having to learn a new backup utility for each approach.

To get you started to backup your computer, we offer *Acronis True Image 10.0 Home* edition at an excellent discount price of just \$29. This product normally sells for \$50. To make it easy for you to start to use this excellent product, you can order the CD for just \$4 more. The CD contains the *Acronis True Image 10.0 Home* edition software, a 45 minute tutorial on the *Perfect Backup Approach*, a step by step guide to installing and using the product on your computer, and the entire *True Image* users guide from Acronis. So, order the CD and get all of these items ready to go on the CD.

To order the product, go to www.usergroupstore.com and in the backup section of the web site you will find a description of *Acronis True Image 10.0 Home*. Click one of the **Buy Now** buttons under the description of *True Image* to purchase either the download (\$29) or the CD (\$33). The special order code for this item is **UGNL0607**.

I hope this article helps you to choose what backup approach you want to use on your computer. If you have not started to backup your computer on a regular basis, now is the time to get started. If you have been using an older version of *True Image*, you should really get the latest *Acronis True Image 10.0 Home* edition with all of the new support for *Windows Vista* and for automatic backups. If you have any questions about *True Image* or this article, please send me an email to gene@ugr.com and I will be happy to assist you.

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Microsoft's New Open-Source War

By [Jim Rapoza](#)

May 24, 2007

Opinion: The company is trying new tactics in its efforts to scare businesses away from open-source products.

When news came out that Microsoft was [claiming that open-source technologies violate 235 Microsoft patents](#), it sparked a predictable firestorm of responses.

Most of these, both here at eWEEK and across the Web, have correctly identified this as a classic Microsoft campaign of FUD (Fear, Uncertainty and Doubt). Points have also been made about the likely inability of these claims to stand up in court, especially now that the Supreme Court has made it easier to invalidate a patent based on obviousness.

However, there was one aspect of this whole circus that struck me immediately upon seeing the news. And that was that this whole effort of FUD on the part of Microsoft is a clear sign that they have given up. Microsoft has been fighting a war for the last several years, and this announcement about the 235 patents was as clear as a white flag that they have given up on ever winning that war.

Which war is it that I'm referring to? It's the war over you, the IT worker and administrator.

For the last several years, Microsoft has been fighting hard to create FUD about the effectiveness of open-source products and to keep IT workers from wanting to use them. They told you that open-source products don't have good support, and your business would be up the river if you used open-source products and problems occurred. Microsoft said that open-source products don't have the scalability or the capacity to run enterprise-class applications. They tried to convince you that you wouldn't be able to find skilled developers to create and manage systems built on open-source products.

But unfortunately for Microsoft, you kept on trying open-source products. And you found the products had support options every bit as good as commercial products. You also learned that open-source products were quite capable of handling the busiest and most resource-intensive enterprise demands. Then, you discovered whole vibrant communities of talented and eager open-source developers. In short, you discovered that Microsoft's claims about open-source technologies were just a bunch of FUD.

And now it's clear that Microsoft knows this too. They were hoping to scare you away from open-source options, but now that their campaign has failed, they've clearly thrown in the towel.

But Microsoft hasn't given up completely. This claim of 235 patents is basically the first salvo in a new war for the hearts and minds of another target audience.

The tactic that they are using in this salvo is what I like to refer to as the "little brother ploy." Maybe you had a sibling who, as you got older, became jealous that you were spending more time with your friends and less time playing with him. And maybe this brother started a campaign of FUD with your mom, trying to convince her that your friends were no good.

But as mom got to know your friends she realized what your little brother was doing, and the game was up. Then, the ratty little kid went to your dad, who didn't know your friends and would have little time to ever meet them, and tried a similar campaign of FUD.

Basically this is exactly what is happening now with Microsoft. In the role of mom are the IT workers, who have gotten to know and like their new friends in the open-source crowd.

And in the role of dad are your company's financial and nontechnical executives. And, unfortunately, since they are unlikely to ever try open-source products themselves, they are ripe to fall for little brother Microsoft's claims that these open-source kids are no good.

That's the sad part. Despite the fact that these 235 patent claims have essentially already been shot down, it's a guarantee that there are some IT administrators currently hearing from executives that read the headlines and think they need to stop using this open-source stuff out of patent fears.

So it's no time for open-source advocates to feel smug about the lacking validity of these patent claims. Those in the business world who want to continue to have open-source options in their infrastructure will need to stay vigilant and make sure their executives understand clearly that these patent claims are bogus.

And then maybe we can put that little brother back in his place.

Chief Technology Analyst Jim Rapoza can be reached at jim_rapoza@ziffdavis.com.

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Web Resources:

[eWEEK's Steven J. Vaughan-Nichols on how Microsoft got the patent study wrong](#)

[The current status of the GNU General Public License 3](#)

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(Continued from page 5)

for the latest open-source news, reviews and analysis.

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Chief Technology Analyst Jim Rapoza can be reached at jim_rapoza@ziffdavis.com.

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Web Resources:

[eWEEK's Steven J. Vaughan-Nichols on how Microsoft got the patent study wrong](#)

[The current status of the GNU General Public License 3](#)

Check out eWEEK.com's [Linux & Open Source Center](#) for the latest open-source news, reviews and analysis.



CLUB SUPPORTERS

THE SECRET GUIDE TO COMPUTERS

The Secret Guide is available at every New Orleans Personal Computer Club General Meeting. The latest printing is available for only \$15.00. Or contact Mary Prinz either at: secretary@nopc.org or (504) 455-1412.

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Things People Write On Money

Sometimes banks will do it, or sometimes the average person will. What are they doing? Marking U.S. currency. Since it is illegal for most of us, only certain groups have the right to do it. But that's not

enough to stop people from using their greenbacks for shopping lists, to make a statement, or send a message to the next person who receives it in change. Kilroy, where are you?

[Things People Write On Money](#)

Smart Computing
Daily Fun Site for May 12, 2007

June 2007

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2 Living with Home Electronics WIST 690AM 10a-11a
3	4	5	6 NOPC Gen Mtg J.D. Meisler School 6:30p-8:30p	7	8	9 Living with Home Electronics WIST 690AM 10a-11a
10	11	12	13 NOPC BOD @ McCann's 6:30p-8:30p	14	15	16 Living with Home Electronics WIST 690AM 10a-11a
17	18	19 Genealogy SIG 7:00 pm Call 887.5746 for meeting location	20	21 New & Inter-mediate User SIG Old Metairie Library 6:30p-8:30p	22	23 Living with Home Electronics WIST 690AM 10a-11a
24	25	26	27	28	29	30 Living with Home Electronics WIST 690AM 10a-11a

The New Orleans Personal Computer Club (NOPCC) is a private non-profit organization chartered under the State of Louisiana. Its purpose is to provide an open forum for discussion and education of the membership in the use and application of PCs, peripheral equipment and software. The opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the author (s) and do not necessarily reflect those of the NOPCC, its members or its officers. The club does not verify for accuracy the articles in this newsletter and leaves verification of accuracy to its readers. Articles in this newsletter may be duplicated as long as credit is given to the author (s) and the NOPCC. Annual Dues Schedule: Regular Member, \$40/yr.; Family Membership, \$60/yr.;

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