



# PcMars Tips

September, 2004

Windows Pc Mars

Version 2.0.7

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Printable PDF Format](#)

## Backing Up Your Data

Too frequently we get phone calls saying “My computer crashed and I want to restore my data on my new computer. What do I do”?

FIRST—It is extremely important to back your books up after every session. It is even more important to make sure you have at least one, if not two full backups after your year is done. PC Mars makes it very easy to backup your books. There are two ways to back up your data.

•Under “File” choose “Back up set of Books”. This option allows you to back up a set of books without actually exiting the program, so you can chose to continue working or back up another set of books

•When you exit the program, the program automatically asks you if you want to back up. This option will back up your books and exit the program.

**JUST a few  
minutes backing up  
your data Can save  
HOURS of  
FRUSTRATIONS**



## Testing Your Backup

SECOND—Make sure you have a good backup!! PC Mars allows you to “TEST” your backup to make sure you have a good backup disc. To do this go to “File” and then click on “Restore Set of Books”. On the lower left side of this screen click the button that says “Test Backup”.

This copies the backup data to a special set of books named "TestBack", under your program directory. You can examine the data in this test directory to see if it is all OK.

When you are satisfied that it is all correct, you can then restore your backups to your original set of books. The “Test Back” set of books can be removed by clicking

on “Remove Set of Books” under File. Just make sure the “Test Back” set of books is highlighted as the ones you want to remove.

**Free download of PcMars  
2.0 Class Booklets  
available at:**

[www.pcmars.com](http://www.pcmars.com)

## Electrical Failures

Unfortunately this happens to too many people and they usually lose their data they have entered since their last backup, or there data is corrupt.

We’ve all been through power failures—and they’re never any fun. These days there’s little reason to risk such a loss. However, your protection is only as good as your surge protection.

Here is a short overview of your options:

•**Power strips:** Most are usually just a glorified extension cord. They won’t protect your computer from an electrical strike or power outage.

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### ***We Need Your Email Address.***

Want more PC Mars Tips?

Make sure you receive PC Mars Tips and update notices.

Throughout the year we will email PcMars Tips and notices. If you haven’t been receiving these, send us your email at: [info@iowafarmbusiness.org](mailto:info@iowafarmbusiness.org)

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## PcMars Tips and Printable PDF Format

### PCMARS ACCOUNTING SOFTWARE

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•**Surge Suppressor Strips:** These are better and are fairly inexpensive, however will not allow you to backup your data and shut down your computer during a power failure.

•**Uninterruptible Power Supplies (UPS):** These have never been more affordable than they are now—ranging from \$45 to \$75. Most of the new UPS models come with software that can shut your PC down automatically if you're not there.

To extend run time, plug in **only** the core components that will allow you to save your data and shut down the PC—such as the computer itself and the monitor, but not the speakers, printers, etc.

**NOTE:** Laser printers should never be powered through a UPS

as they draw a lot of power when printing and can overload it.

•So deciding which type to purchase depends on what you want to spend and how valuable your data is to you. Be sure to check on the vendor's equipment-damage insurance. The company (in theory) covers the cost of repair or replacement. **Read the vendor's policy carefully!**

## *Back Up Options*

•**Drive A Option**—This will backup all your files to the A drive. When using this option **ONLY USE THIS BACKUP DISK FOR ONE SET OF PC MARS BOOKS. NEVER SAVE ANY OTHER DATA TO THIS DISK.** This is the “default” and simplest option. If you backup using any other option, restoring your data may be more complicated.

•**Backup for the consultant**—This option will backup your data files under the **exact** directory that your original PC Mars data is located on your hard drive.

This will allow your consultant/fieldman to access your data (without having to go through the restore process).

•**Other backup location**—In this option you need to specify the backup directory yourself. **ONLY CHOOSE THIS OPTION IF YOU UNDERSTAND FILE PATHS.** You may choose an existing directory or create a new directory. Otherwise this option has the same features as “Backup for the Consultant”.

## **REMEMBER:**

You can update your software anytime during your accounting year. All your data is compatible with PcMars 2.0, so there is no need for any conversion.

Call **NOW** to upgrade to Windows Pc Mars 2.0.

•**Compressed (zip) File**—This option will backup your data files into a single compressed zip format file. This file can be read by PkZip or WinZip compression utilities. PC Mars can also restore from that zip file. Using a zip file is useful for E-mailing, because a single file is easier to attach, takes up much less space, and takes less time to download. For these same reasons, you may wish to use this for all your backups. Click on the button “Select zip file...” to specify the file name you want to use for this zip file, and its location. Then click “OK” as described below. (See web site [www.pcmars.com](http://www.pcmars.com) to view “How to Email & Restore your Zipped Data”).

•**One thing to remember**—By using option two, three or four; (“Backup for the Consultant”, “Other Backup Location” or “Compressed (zip) File”), you will be able to save **more** than one set of books or other data to a larger media such as a zip or cd.



**WATCH FOR  
FUTURE  
TIPS**