

**Prepare for the worst,  
bounce back from the inevitable.**

# **SAVED!**

## **Backing Up With EaseUS Todo**

**An Ask Leo! Book!**

**LEO A. NOTENBOOM**

# SAVED!

## Backing Up with EaseUS Todo

Prepare for the worst;  
bounce back from the inevitable.

1<sup>st</sup> Edition

by

Leo A. Notenboom

An Ask Leo!<sup>®</sup> book

<https://askleo.com>

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## The Ask Leo! Manifesto

I believe personal technology is essential to humanity's future.

It has an amazing potential to empower individuals,  
but it can also frustrate and intimidate.

I want to make technology work for you.

I want to replace that *frustration* and *intimidation*  
with the *amazement* and *wonder* that I feel every day.

I want it to be a *resource* rather than a *roadblock*;  
a *valuable tool*, instead of a source of *irritation*.

I want personal technology to empower you,  
so you can be a part of that amazing future.

That's why Ask Leo! exists.



Leo A. Notenboom

<https://askleo.com>

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# Introduction

## What We'll Cover

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This book is about backing up Windows using EaseUS Todo Backup (free version 8.6).

If you're about to embark on a process of cleaning up or upgrading your machine, including making changes that will involve deleting files and programs, altering random configuration settings, and who knows what else, the absolute best thing to do before you start will be to save what you have, before you begin, with a backup—just in case.

Let's face it, even you're doing nothing of the sort—even if you're just using your computer every day to perform tasks ranging from the inconsequential to the critically important—you need to start backing up. Stuff happens.

Once you have backups in place, you'll be able to use them to keep your data safe from malware, hardware failure, and even accidental deletion.

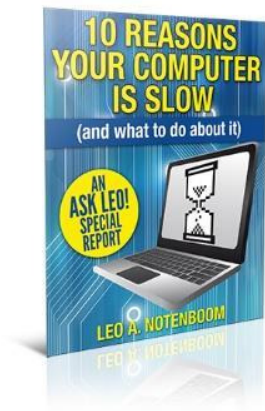
As I've said before, having an up-to-date backup is nothing short of a silver bullet when it comes to computing. Nothing can save you from more different types of disasters.

Here, I'll give you step-by-step examples of how to:

- Back up
- Schedule automatic backups
- Test your backups
- Prepare for recovery
- Perform either full-system or specific-file recovery, in the event that it's needed.

## First: A Freebie for You

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Before we dive in, I have something for you: my Ask Leo! special report, “*10 Reasons Your Computer is Slow (and what to do about it)*”. This report will help you identify why your computer is slowing down, and the steps you can take to fix it.

It’s yours for free when you subscribe to my weekly Ask Leo! newsletter.

Each week, you’ll find fixes to common problems, tips to keep your computer and online information safe and secure, commentary on technology issues of the day, and even the occasional explanation as to just why things are the way they are. It’s educational and fun, and can help you be more effective and less frustrated as you use technology.

And it’s completely FREE.

Visit <https://go.askleo.com/etdnews> to learn more, browse the archives, and sign up, today!

Now, let’s get on with backing up...



## My Example Machine

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The concepts, programs, steps, and tips in this book should apply to almost any machine running Windows XP<sup>1</sup> or any subsequent versions of Windows.

However, I figured you might like a peek into what I'm using, which is what you'll see in the examples throughout this book.

The machine I'm using right now is a 2.7 gigahertz, 64-bit, 12-core processor with 64 gigabytes of RAM, close to ten terabytes of hard disk space, and a 27-inch monitor.

Oh, and it's a Mac Pro.

Needless to say, that's *not* the machine you'll be seeing here.

On my Mac, I run software called Oracle VirtualBox. That software allows me to create a virtual machine—a complete computer-within-a-computer, or "machine in a window", if you like.

I'll be using a virtual machine, or "VM", here for several reasons: it's easy to reset to an initial known state; it's configured to be more like your machine and less like mine; and it won't have all of the stuff on it that my machine does that might distract from what I'm trying to present. It also has a more manageable screen size.

If you're interested, you can learn a little more about Virtual Machines in "Virtual Machines: What Are They?"<sup>2</sup>, a video segment from one of my webinars, in which I give a brief overview of what I think is a pretty darned cool technology.

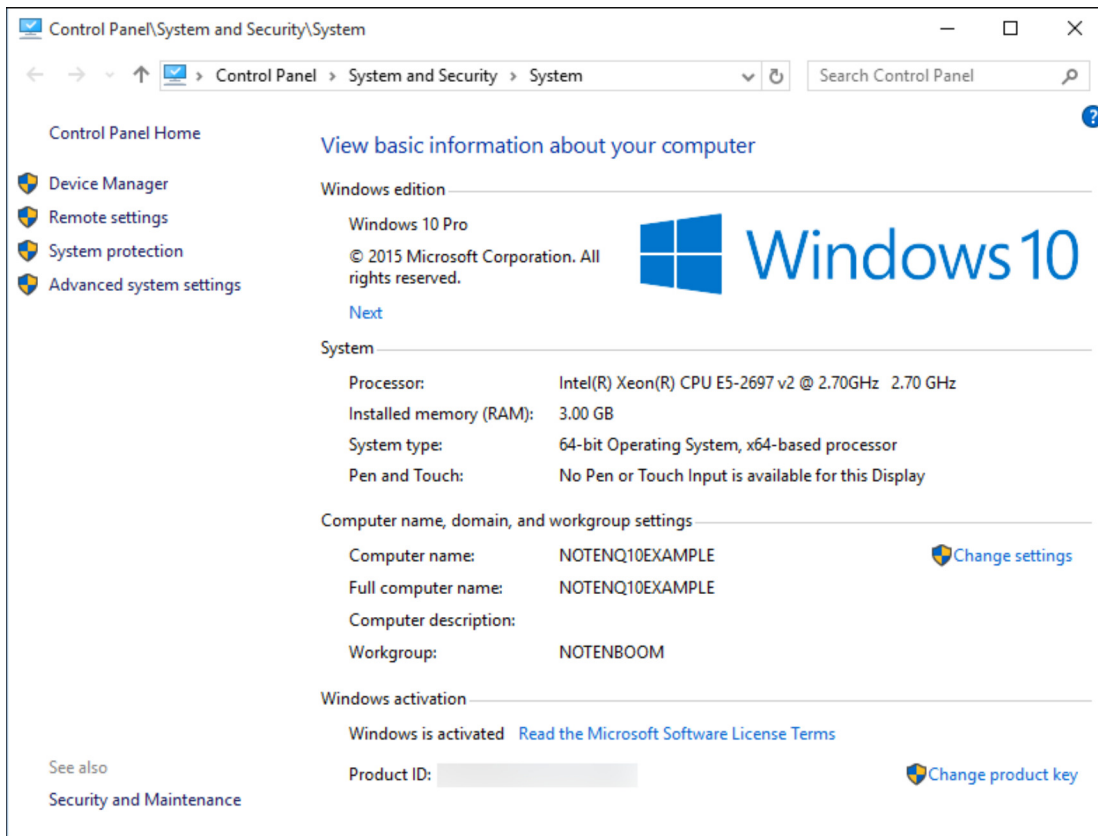
The VM uses only two of the 2.7 Ghz processors, three gigabytes of RAM, and it runs the 64-bit version of Windows 10 Pro. It has a single hard disk of 100 gigabytes in size, and a single display at 1600x900 resolution.

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<sup>1</sup> I do expect that at some point, EaseUS Todo will drop support for Windows XP, but at this writing XP is still supported.

<sup>2</sup> [http://ask-leo.com/virtual\\_machines\\_what\\_are\\_they.html](http://ask-leo.com/virtual_machines_what_are_they.html)

Here's a peek at the system configuration of my virtual machine.



## Be Sure To Register Your Book!

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Your purchase of this book entitles you to several free bonuses.

- You may download all available digital formats of the book, so that regardless of which version you purchase, you can enjoy this book on the digital device of your choice.
- Updates, errata, and prioritized Q&A.

You'll find the information you need to register in a chapter near the end of the book called "[Register Your Book](#)". Once you register, you'll have access to the owners-only web pages specifically for this book, which will contain all available bonuses.

# Choosing a Backup Strategy

As I've said many times, backing up is perhaps the single most important thing you can do, not only to maintain your computer, but to save your behind in the face of inevitable, unexpected failure.

It's often been said that there's no such thing as too many backups. I don't disagree. However, there *is* such a thing as having the wrong backup.

The wrong backup is a backup that, when you need it, doesn't contain whatever it is you're trying to recover. That's about as good as no backup at all.

Thus, the golden rule of backups:

*If it's in only one place, it's not backed up.*

If you only remember one thing from this book, let it be that.

One thing that computers are great at is making copies.

But if you don't have another copy ... anywhere ... you're not backed up.

## Backup Inventory: Your Data

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Let's look at what it is you have to back up. We'll start with the most obvious: your data.

The problem here is that the phrase "your data" or "my data" is *extremely* ambiguous. It can mean different things to different people. Most commonly, when people hear "my data," they think of things like:

- Email
- Documents
- Ebooks
- Photos
- Music
- Videos
- ... and many more things that vary from person to person.

On top of that, "your data" could live in any of several different places:

- A computer.
- A mobile device.
- In "the cloud," as part of some online service.
- ... somewhere else that hasn't even been invented yet.

Naturally, this book will focus on backing up what's stored on your computer, but I want you to begin thinking about *all* of your data, regardless of where it's kept.

Remember: if there's only one copy, it's not backed up.