



August 2006

 [PDF Version](#)  [Printable Version](#)  [Email to a Friend](#)

Recover Computers Quickly with Imaging Software

Imagine coming to work and finding your computer unable to boot up because the Windows Operating System software has a virus infection. Not so hard to imagine, right?

In many cases fixing the problem requires you to format the drive to clean the virus, track down the software for the Windows Operating System and the associated application set, reload the Windows software, and install the latest anti-virus software, specific system drivers, and each required application.

This can easily become a four to six hour process for your IT personnel.

Now, imagine the same system failure, notification of your IT personnel, but instead, approximately five minutes until your exact desktop is back up and operational because of **imaging software**.

Reducing four to six hours down to five minutes? Talk about efficiency!

When you extrapolate such a scenario over hundreds of desktops, you can see how powerful such a solution is in reducing time and personnel cost. Now, a single engineer can effectively manage hundreds of desktops.

The most popular software for desktop imaging is Symantec's Norton Ghost. Ghost allows a network administrator to create an image, or picture, of a computer or a group of computers on the network (with identical application sets and software), and save them to a file server or CD. When a computer goes down, a technician can download the specific image for that machine from the file server or CD to quickly restore the computer.

Granted, there is some upfront work involved in defining an image for each computer or group of computers, varying on whether every computer (in the high school computer lab, for example) gets the same image or not. However, this upfront work—to define the appropriate number and type of images—is well worth it when considering the ease of computer recovery.

One reminder to keep in mind, though, is that any data saved locally will be lost with a new image. For this reason, to ensure data recovery, always save to your district's file servers.

Have a wonderful summer.

Sincerely,



Paul Crawley

Paul Crawley is an MCT, CNI and CCNA. He has taught network operating systems for both Microsoft and Novell beginning in 1994. He is President of Crawley & Associates, Inc., an education technology consulting firm founded in 1995. The company is located in Fair Lawn, NJ. Paul can be reached at pcrawley@crawleyinc.com.



www.crawleyinc.com

121 Lincoln Ave.

Fair Lawn, NJ 07410

Phone - 973-636-7350