

Vetech View

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Keep It Alive In 2005!

Vetech Software Services, Inc. (800) 677-8832

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Credit Card Processing Integration

VETECH Software has partnered with X-Charge credit card processing to offer a credit card processing system that is integrated with your existing Advantage software. With this system, you purchase an inexpensive card reader and there are no monthly rental fees for card reading equipment. When you swipe a credit card on the reader, the clients balance automatically gets inserted into the payment field in Advantage and a signature area prints on the clients invoice. This eliminates duplicate entry payment information into both the Advantage software and your credit card machine.

X-charge also touts very low fees for transactions. You will need to speak with an X-charge representative for a quote on fees. Please contact our office if you are interested in an integrated credit card processing system.

Backup your valuable data

By Matt Sanregret

Making regular backups of your Advantage data is an essential part of your computer maintenance. With a data backup, you can recover from a computer failure with minimal or no data loss.

Making a backup is simply a matter of copying your data from the computers hard disk to another location (typically a removable drive of some kind). Making a backup does not change any information on your computer.

Backups should be performed on a daily basis as insurance against computer problems. A backup should also be made prior to any major changes to your computer. Procedures like installing new software, or software upgrades, and even installing new hardware should only be done after you have made a backup of your valuable data.

A backup is your insurance in case something happens to your computer. Just like with any other type of insurance there are those who would rather assume the risk in exchange for saving a little time and money. This is the decision we all have to make. How important is your data and what would you do if you lost it? We hope that we never have to use your backup insurance but when you need it, you will be glad you have it.

After you start using software, the value of your data quickly becomes much higher than the computer itself. You can always go out and buy a new computer, but think about re-entering all your clients, patients, history, reminders, etc. How do you put a price on that?

Today's backups are faster, cheaper and more reliable than ever before. A few years ago it was not uncommon for a backup of veterinary software to take over an hour. Current backup drives and fast computers can reduce your backup time to about 10 minutes or less in many cases. If you are currently not making backups or not sure if you are getting valid backups, please contact our office.

How to make a backup copy of your database

The Advantage system makes performing a backup on a regular basis very easy. Basically there are only two steps.

Thought for the day: Opportunities always look bigger going than coming.



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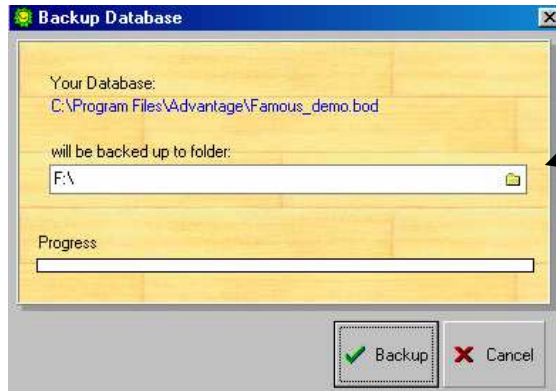
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1. Exit the Advantage software on all computers, except the one making the actual backup
2. Click the File menu and select Backup Database. The following menu will be displayed.



Click the folder icon to select a new backup drive or folder

Using the built in backup in the Advantage system requires that the backup device be a drive letter that is accessible through Windows Explorer. Many tape backups do not create a drive letter; therefore to use these types of backups you will need to use the backup software that comes with that device.

CD-RW drives are very popular these days. In order to write directly to a CD-RW disk from Advantage you need to format a CD-RW disk with the software that came with your CD drive. Roxio is a popular CD-RW software package and they include a program called "drag to disk" that allows other programs, such as Advantage, to copy directly to a CD. If you do not have this ability, you will need to exit Advantage and use your CD backup software to copy data to a CD.

How Many backup disks?

While we're discussing backups I frequently get asked how many different backups you should have. Or just as frequently I'll be working with someone and find out they only have one backup tape/disk and they've been using it for the last two years. There is no magic number. In fact, the more the merrier! But, at the minimum you should have at least 3 backups that you alternate daily.

It is probably best to have 6-7 so you have one for every day that the practice is open. Label the media for each day – Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, etc., and use that disk only on that day. Also The Advantage system automatically keeps up to three individual backups per backup folder, so with this strategy, you will be able to go back almost a month.

The last suggestion about backups is to keep one off-site but also keep the most recent one handy. If you live 45 minutes away and you need to restore a backup that's almost 2 hours additional down time just waiting for you to go home and get your backup. The reason for off-site backup is to protect against theft or property damage. A backup won't do you any good if it gets stolen with your computer.

If you can start the day without caffeine,
If you can get going without pep pills,
If you can always be cheerful, ignoring aches and pains,
If you can resist complaining and boring people with your troubles,
If you can eat the same food every day and be grateful for it,
If you can understand when your loved ones are too busy to give you any time,
If you can take criticism and blame without resentment,
If you can ignore a friend's limited education and never correct him,
If you can resist treating a rich friend better than a poor friend,
If you can conquer tension without medical help,
If you can relax without liquor,
If you can sleep without the aid of drugs,

...Then You Are Probably The Family Dog!

