

Introduction

In the information technology field one is always having to increase their knowledge and skillset. You are constantly buying books, watching videos, reading blogs, anything you can do to keep current. If anything, there is usually too much information so you get overloaded and have to pick and choose.

A few months ago I was looking to add to my data recovery skills. Not because I was really having problems recovering data, but with Windows 10 and MacOS El Capitan out only a short time and MacOS Sierra being virtually brand new I had not really done much on any of these platforms so I thought a little research would go a long way.

I really wanted a book; Kindle was fine but I wanted to read. I already have more podcasts in queue than I could hope to listen to so that would be a non-starter. Besides, sometimes I just like to sit in the quiet, particularly this time of year when it is seventy degrees and sunny outside. I can sit on my front porch under the eave, drink a glass of lemonade and read. It is very relaxing.

So off to Amazon I went looking for a good book on data recovery. Several popped up and so I bought two and downloaded a sample of the third. I was not happy.

The first book was less than thirty pages and almost half of that was an advertisement and sample section of another of his books. The part that was about data recovery was pretty much a "how you lost your data" section followed by a "list of software recovery tools" section and then a "good luck" section.

The second book was much better but was still really fuzzy on how the data recovery worked, how to find out what happened, and what I could expect to recover. It was however excellent on exactly how to carry out the recovery procedure and the tools he used.

The sample of the third book I downloaded was the worst of the three barely even qualifying for English and having no real usable information for recovering anything.

This got me thinking, what better way to fine tune my skills than to write a book on it myself? It would not just be me telling you what I know, but researching things I don't

know, or don't know well enough to explain; I would potentially learn a lot in the process. So here we are.

This book is being written for two different audiences that need a very similar approach: normal people who are not really tech savvy, and budding computer technicians who want to learn about data recovery. I wanted one book that would not only help the average home user, but also kick start someone into being able to do this as a part of their computer business.

I also wanted a book that had not only ways to recover data, but a little explanation behind the hardware and software so you could begin to understand why some data can be recovered and some cannot. Not only that but also a foundation in file storage in general.

Once I got going I had to put in sections on preventing data loss (arguably the single most important section) and making sure data you want gone really is gone. Things always escalate, don't they?

Anyway, I hope you enjoy the book and learn a lot. If you have any comments, good or bad, drop by my website at www.allans-stuff.com and let me know. Both good and bad constructive comments make sure the next version of the book is better than the last so I welcome them.

One thing that I should point out is that it takes a lot of time to put together a book. In this time it is very likely that new versions of software will be released and the screens and options in those new versions may differ from those in this book. Generally the differences are minor enough that you may not even notice. Occasionally the difference are pretty substantial. I have attempted to always use the latest version of the software I am discussing but in the months it takes to write, edit, and finally get it published those may not be the latest version any more. Sorry.

On with the show...