

# The Data Download

A Newsletter By  
Impressions Computers



## What's New

SSD, or a solid-state drive, is the new generation of storage. SSDs run faster by using flash-based memory. They are also more reliable as there are no moving parts like traditional mechanical hard drives. This will help your machine run faster with a quicker access to files. The lifespan of a solid-state drive is around 10 years compared to a traditional hard drive averaging 3-5 years. The majority of SSDs use less power, as they don't have spinning disks to power up, this helps the battery life for laptops. The failure rate is significantly less for SSDs but we still encourage backups. So, keep backing up no matter what kind of drive you are using. Faster, more reliable and better price points make SSD the way to go!

## Be Aware

We are seeing a surge in some ransomware. Typically seen via phishing emails that contain malicious attachments or drive-by downloading. Drive-by downloading happens when a user not knowingly visits an infected website, then malware is downloaded and installed without the user's knowledge. This malicious code encrypts your data so it is not readable without a key. The attacker has the key for a price, hence the 'ransomware' name. Your best line of defense is having up-to-date security protection (antivirus, mal/spy/adware), being cautious/suspicious of any email attachments and having redundant backups of your data. It is better to be safe than sorry, take your time and question that email before you open it. If you see anything that looks different, don't open it!

## In The Know

Keep your keyboard clean

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One common issue we see on computers is physical damage from food or drinks. Keyboards and mice are the most affected. Fortunately, most keyboards and mice are not that expensive and are easy to change out. Not true for laptops. To replace the keyboard hardware itself on a laptop is not a terrible price but the labor costs of getting the laptop apart and back together make it a pricy endeavor. There is also a risk of damaging the laptop by taking it apart. Plastic is the main component in the case and it gets brittle and can break easily. There are covers designed for both desktop and laptop computer keyboards. If you find yourself in a rush all the time and need to multitask meals with working, covers are a good investment.

*HAPPY*  
*2021*