STAR Watch

Statewide Technology Assistance Resources Project

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"Kernel BKF Repair" to the Rescue!

Consider the following scenario: Someone deleted some important data files from the file server. It would be a catastrophe if backups weren't being done, but they are. Backups are being done the right way and there are multiple generations of backups in case one of them is defective.

It's annoying, but a restore of the deleted files will quickly fix everything. The restore program is started up and you are all set to select the files or folders to restore, when a message appears on the screen:

The backup file contains unrecognized data and cannot be used.

Okay, so there is a backup file with a problem – Just choose another. As you select back up file after backup file, the error message repeats itself. It finally begins to sink in: You have a big problem. Not only is it a problem that the files cannot be restored, you have just found out all of the backups are completely useless.

Without panicking (yet), you search the Microsoft KnowledgeBase for the error message in hopes that there might be a fix. You find the message and a fix – but not for the circumstances encountered. In desperation, you Google the message but find no quick fixes. Things are looking pretty bleak right now. Some of the work that Mike Rowe has done on "Dirty Jobs" is beginning to look better to you than your current job.

Confession time.

In case you haven't figured it out yet, we were the unfortunate souls that had the problem of the uncooperative backup files visited upon them. And it wasn't that all of our backups didn't work. It was only a set of backup files that were several months old that were stored on two USB external hard drives (We checked the current

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backups – They were ok.). We were feeling better about our current backup situation, but we really needed to recover the files from those old backups.

There's hope (maybe)...

Apparently, corrupted backup files are not uncommon. If you Google "corrupted backup file", you will get hundreds of links to products that claim to fix a variety of problems with backup files, including the problem mentioned above. But do they really work? We weren't able to do an exhaustive analysis of all programs that claim to repair corrupted backup files, but we did purchase and use one of them to recover an entire folder of data from a corrupted backup file. It may not be possible to recover data from a corrupted backup file in all circumstances, but for the problem that we were having, we hoped that it would work.

We started by downloading a free trial version of a product called "Kernel BKF Repair" (www.bkffilerecovery.com). The vendor claims that the product will correct problems associated with the following error messages:

- "The backup file contains unrecognized data and cannot be used".
- "The backup file is unusable. You must erase it, or choose another file".
- "The fixed media is full. You cannot back up all of the specified data to this disk device. The backup operation will stop".
- •"An inconsistency was encountered on the requested media".

The vendor also claims that the free trial version will do everything except create a copy of the data contained in the backup

file (If they fixed the problem with the backup file, why would you buy it?). After installing the demo program, it was run against one of the problem backup files. Lo and behold, the names of files and folders that should have been in the backup slowly begin to appear! Compared to the Microsoft restore program that wouldn't do anything with the file (except complain about it), we felt confident enough with these meager results to go ahead and purchase the full version of the program.

Did it work?

Yes, it did. The program read through the backup file and created a map of the folders, subfolders and files contained in the backup. We selected the folders that we wished to restore, selected a temporary location where the recovered files/folders should be placed, and clicked "Save". Kernel BKF Repair extracted the data from the backup file and placed it on disk. After examining the recovered files for accuracy, we copied the recovered data to the file server.

Was it fast? Not particularly, but speed was not the major consideration.

Did it diagnose what was wrong with the backup files? No. It just extracted the folders and files that we specified from the backup. By that time, we no longer cared about why the backup files didn't work. We were just happy to get the files back. Maybe at some time in the future we may try to figure out what is wrong with those files.

Any lingering questions? Just one: If dozens and dozens of software vendors can figure out how to extract files from a corrupted backup file, why can't Microsoft?

More Online Trainings and Presentations Available

Four new trainings and one new presentation are available for viewing over the web by attorneys and staff. In most cases, there is no charge for viewing these trainings, but everyone who wishes to view these trainings must register. There is a processing fee for CLE credit. These trainings are available immediately.

To view the trainings...

- Start up your web browser and go to this location: http://onlineresources.wnylc.net
- On the left side of the screen, click on "Online Training"
- Click on the desired training; a registration form will be displayed
- Fill out the registration form; then click on "Submit form"
- A link to the presentation will be sent to the email address provided in the registration form

If you are an attorney and wish to receive CLE credit, you must fill out the course evaluation and attorney affirmation forms and mail it to the ad-

dress on the form along with payment for processing of the CLE credit request. New York State Bar Association rules require that the forms be mailed. They cannot be submitted electronically.

Financial Hardship Policy available upon request. Contact Michelle Peterson, Training Coordinator

Newly admitted attorneys in New York State can not receive CLE credit for online training.

If you are an attorney who is not licensed in New York State and want CLE credit, please check to see if your state allows New York State CLE credits to be applied to your state's CLE requirements.

The 17% Solution: Child Support Issues Faced by Low Income Parents

This session will focus on the myriad issues faced by low income custodial and non-custodial parents in the

world of child support enforcement. The session will include an overview of the requirement that applicants and recipients assign their rights to child support or obtain child support orders as a condition of eligibility for public assistance, Medicaid and child care, including "good cause" exceptions; a review of the State's new desk review procedure for custodial parents who believe they were erroneously denied or underpaid the \$50 pass through and excess support, and issues raised by the State call center which pre-empts calls to local support collection units.

The session will also cover issues faced by indigent respondents including excessive child support add-ons, problems with the \$500 cap on arrears and restraints on exempt income. All medical support regulations issued by the federal government and their effect on New York practice that were issued before the Partnership Conference will be discussed.

Finally, the session will include an overview of the provisions in the Deficit Reduction Act that affect child support.

Date of Original Presentation: 9/23/08

Viewing Time: 1 hour 34 minutes

Presenters: Jennifer Magida & Susan

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CLE Credits: 1.5 Professional Prac-

tice.

Cost for this viewing this training including CLE credit: \$60.00 for Notfor-Profit Agencies; \$90.00 for Private Practice Attorneys

Winning on Appeal

Using an HIV case as a model, this session will outline appeal procedures and practices at the Appeals Council and in U.S. District Courts. Presenters will focus on the practices and procedures specific to each of the four District Courts in New York.

Date of Original Presentation: 9/24/08

Viewing Time: 1 hour 36 minutes

Presenters: Louise Tarantino, Kate

Callery, Candice Appleton

CLE Credits: 1.5 Professional Prac-

tice.

Cost for this viewing this training including CLE credit: \$60.00 for Not-for-Profit Agencies; \$90.00 for Private Practice Attorneys

Confronting Vocational Experts ("VE") Testimony

If the Grids cannot be applied, you had better prepare for the testimony of a Vocational Expert (VE). Learn about when a VE will be called in a case, the role of the VE, dealing with hypothetical questions, and formulating a cross examination.

Date of Original Presentation: 9/24/08

Viewing Time: 1 hour 40 minutes

Presenters: Peter Racette

CLE Credits: 1.5 Professional Practice

& .5 Ethics

Cost for this viewing this training including CLE credit: \$60.00 for Not-for-Profit Agencies; \$90.00 for Private Practice Attorneys

Special Ed Litigation: **Achieving Systemic Change** within School Districts

From Greece, NY to New York City, public interest attorneys have challenged school districts' systemic failures to provide appropriate educational support to students with disabilities. In this session, attornevs and advocates will learn about the most recent cases, as well as "cutting-edge strategies" for litigating systems-change lawsuits that aim to compel school districts to improve services for large numbers of students.

Date of Original Presentation: 9/24/08

Viewing Time: 1 hour 30 minutes

Presenters: Jonathan Feldman. Jennifer Monthie, Ruth Lowenkron

CLE Credits: 1.5 Professional Prac-

tice.

Cost for this viewing this training including CLE credit: \$60.00 for Notfor-Profit Agencies; \$90.00 for Private **Practice Attorneys**

Counsel, covers persuasion skills and techniques that will give you a better chance of success. Topics covered include: understanding the hierarchy of authority for public assistance workers; a story telling approach to advocacy; understanding the role of discretion; approaches to working the chain of supervision; identifying and responding to pattern and practice problems; the importance of providing factual context, not just the facts needed for a prima facia case; and the importance of understanding the limits of the knowledge of fact finders about the lives of our clients.

Date of Original Presentation: 10/20/08

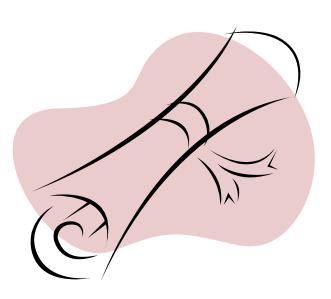
Viewing Time: 1 hour 53 minutes

Presenter: Bryan D. Hetherington

This presentation is not certified for CLE credit

"Public Benefits Advocacy: **Practical Skills that Make** a Big Difference"

You know the law of public benefits but how do you actually convince caseworkers, ALJs or judges in court to decide in your client's favor? This video, presented by Bryan Hetherington, Empire Justice Center Chief



Two Tech Tips for Windows Vista...

- (1) Does Vista seem to be running slower than Windows XP? It might be true. A default power setting limits CPU performance to save energy. To opt for better performance, open the **Power Options** control panel and click the **High performance** radio button.
- (2) Vista has a new option that offers more control over what you select. With the integrated Snipping Tool, you can capture any object on your screen and then annotate, save, or share the image. To access the Snipping Tool, click the **Start** button, type **snip** in the search box, and press **Enter**. You can then use the mouse to capture a freeform shape, rectangle, window, or the full screen. The screen shot is automatically copied to the **Snipping Tool** window, which offers a small set of commands and tools for working with the image. The Snipping Tool lets you capture error messages, which you can send to the Computing Help Desk via email when you need assistance.



WHO WE ARE

Joe Kelemen - Attorney
Kathleen Lynch - Attorney
David Derrico - Attorney
Denetra Williams - Attorney
Marisa Villeda - Attorney
Tom Karkau - Programmer
Sherry Soules - Administrator
Holly Lindstrom - Data Analyst
Joy McDuffie - Data Analyst



Wnylc@wnylc.com



716-855-0203



www.wnylc.net

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