**What is CrashPlan?**
CrashPlan is a computer backup facility. It is designed to backup data, but it is not intended for full-system backups, that is it is not designed to backup an entire computer that can be then restored from that backup. What it is designed to do is to backup your data - your documents, reports, source code, etc., and allow you to later restore that information to the same or any other computer. CrashPlan will back up most of the data in your user profile, silently, in the background to a server owned by RIT.

For example, suppose you travel to a conference to give a presentation, but your laptop's disk drive fails. If you had been backing up via CrashPlan, you could borrow a laptop, access your backup via a web browser, restore the necessary files for your presentation, and give your presentation. If you borrow an IST loaner computer while yours is being repaired, you can easily restore your files to the loaner.

The CrashPlan agent can be installed on any RIT-owned faculty/staff computer. It si not available for personally-owned computers (verify). Each user is allowed up to four (4) RIT-owned devices, and 100GB of total backup space between those devices. If more space is needed, please contact Jimmy McNatt or John Simonson.

**Installing the CrashPlan Agent**
- **Windows**
  
  Retrieve a copy of the agent from here [insert URL], and run the installer. This will install and activate CrashPlan, which will start backing up your system. This will also result in a new icon in your system tray; right-click that icon, and select *show application* to get to the application, where you can control your backup profile, see backup history, control what gets backup, etc.

You will also have a new application in your list of applications/programs:
• MacOS - a two-step process
  Retrieve a copy of the CrashPlan agent for MacOS from [insert URL] and run the installer. You should then see a greyed-out CrashPlan icon on the status bar. CrashPlan will not be active until you logout and log back in, or until you reboot and then login again.

While the icon is greyed-out, you would see the following:

Once you have logged out (or rebooted) and logged back in, the icon will be black, and clicking on it will result in a richer menu:
If you get pop-up message asking for permission to back up your data, you should click on "OK", e.g.,

But wait, there's more...
Configuring/Tailoring CrashPlan

By default, CrashPlan will back up your profile/home directory:

- Windows: C:\Users\username
- Mac: /Users/username

You can - and almost certainly will need - to exclude some files and directories from the backup, and may wish to include directories outside of your profile. While CrashPlan is configured to automatically exclude certain file types and directories, many of us have a lot of data and would exceed our 100Gb limit if we failed to exclude other objects.

By default, CrashPlan excludes
- iTunes libraries
- Virtual Machine virtual disk files (VMWare VMDK files, VirtualBox VDI files, etc), you may have the backup client installed within the VM to backup content from within a VM.
- DropBox [How about OneDrive and GoogleDrive as well]?
- Any file with the extension ".dnbu" ("do not back up")

It is also wise to exclude anything that you do not need backed up: e.g., I have excluded my Downloads folder - everything there I can easily download again. I have exclude my desktop - its contents are very ephemeral, often cluttered, and often quite large - and anything I deem important enough to backup I place elsewhere. If you are more sensible than I with respect to your desktop, you may choose to not exclude it from backups.

Web Interface - Verifying Backups and Restoring Files
This can be done from the application installed on your computer, or via the web interface at

https://backup.rit.edu:4285/console/login.html
You should see something like the following:

![CODE42 CONSOLE](image)

Click on the "or login normally" item, and supply your RIT login credentials (login name and password). Do NOT select the Code 42 account or Sign in using RIT Shibboleth login methods. You will see something like the following:

![CrashPlan Page 4](image)

That is a little hard to see in this context, so looking at just the left-hand panel:
we see the various sections of control available to us:

The view above is the **Dashboard** view. But I can also see **Organizations** and **Users** (not really of interest to you, and possibly not available to you as a non-administrator).

Of interest to you though would be **Devices**, which for me looks like:

![Device Overview]

Which shows the one device I back up via CrashPlan, and its current status. At the far right is a **Restore** button, which allows me to restore one or more files via the web interface - just what you need when getting backed up files onto a loaner computer. From that status bar I can also see the OS is Windows, I am on-line, I have 6.9Gb backed up and that my last backup was five minutes ago.

If I clicked on the **Restore** button, I could check items I wanted restored, and might see something like:
where I selected C:\Users\john\AppData\Local 9a directory) and C:\Users\john\Documents\070-2_0.pdf. If I had clicked on Restore, CrashPlan would have restored that directory and files. The material would have been restored as a Zip file, from which I could then extract the restored materials. I could also select files by name (searchable) and files by date.

Of interest also is the **My Profile** section:
And yes, it does have an idea (rough in this case) of where you are, of interest perhaps for laptops.

**Application/Agent Interface - Verifying Backups, Restoring Files and More**

While you may use the web interface to CrashPlan for restores (and other tasks) while restoring to a loaner computer, you will most often be working on your computer which has the CrashPlan application/agent installed.

Start the application via manually (or on Windows via the system tray icon, right-click on the CrashPlan icon and select *show application*, or on the Mac, the *Show CrashPlan* item from the icon's menu). On windows, you should see something like:
If I click on the *Change* button, I see something like:
Which allows me to define what I want backed up - I can select objects outside of my profile/home directory, and I can exclude objects that would otherwise be backed up, by directory or by file. Click Cancel to skip, and Save to keep your changes.

The Restore task is similar to that in the web version:
Notice the bottom line on that screen - you can choose which version of a file to restore (most recent is displayed), where to put the file (Desktop is currently selected) and what to do with the file (rename an existing file is select, but you can choose to over-write or replace any file by the same name). Clicking on the characteristic steps through the choices available. When done with selection of objects and setting of characteristics, clock on the Restore button and your files will be restored.

The next task item is *Settings*, and the first tab is *General*:
Most of these items do not need to be altered. The **Backup** tab

Allows for extensive changes and tailoring to your preferences. Specifically, you can easily exclude files/directories in
a nice global sense - e.g., exclude an file with a .BAK extension or any file with a .vmk extension, where ever it may reside on the disk. The **Backup->Change** approach mentioned earlier is more file/directory specific and is not global.

The Account tab will not need your attention usually and should be left alone:

The security tab's materials are not alterable:
While the final tab under settings (Network) does allow you some control, I would recommend that you do not alter anything unless you are 100% sure you know what you are doing (and even then hesitate):
The next left-hand menu item is History, and this is a log of CrashPlan's activity (and problems it has encountered):

I can see that my backup is apparently unable to back up 65 of the 12,000+ files I want backed up. I'll have to look into that.

The final left-hand menu item is Destinations - no worry about this, as we have only one destination available: