



Tech Info Library

Two Mirrored Backup Products

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TOPIC -----

Is there a mirrored backup capability for the Macintosh in the Reflections software from Profyle Computers, Ltd in Oxon, England.

DISCUSSION -----

Yes. For contact information, see the listing under "Profyle" in the Technical Info library. A similar type of backup utility was recently announced. Natural Intelligence publishes a product called Shadow that does automatic backup. They state that:

Shadow periodically copies the documents that have changed since they were last backed up. Shadow can backup onto any floppy disk, hard disk, removable disk, network server, or Finder-mountable tape drive.

Also, Golden Triangle has DiskTwin, a fault-tolerant, disk storage device for Macintosh II family computers. Golden Triangle states:

"DiskTwin is a Macintosh software package, facilitated by a proprietary NuBus add-in card, that automatically and transparently uses a second SCSI bus to make a real time copy of the contents of a primary hard drive onto a secondary hard drive. Technically, this operation is known as disk duplexing."

To the question "What is disk duplexing?", Golden Triangle responds:

"Disk duplexing is a technology today widely used in the mainframe and minicomputer world and in large microcomputer networks to ensure continuous operation. It is vital where end users simply cannot afford to lose any data or afford for a system to be down any amount of time. Now Golden Triangle uses proprietary software and hardware to bring this technology within economic reach of even a single Macintosh user."

Golden Triangle answers "How does DiskTwin work?" as follows:

"Drop the DiskTwin control panel device (CDEV) into your System Folder. Place the DiskTwin NuBus card into your Macintosh II. Attach a drive of the same kind as your primary disk onto the DiskTwin card. For example, if you have an Apple Quantum 80 internal, connect an Apple Quantum 80 external to the DiskTwin

card. Restart your computer, and select the drive you want to twin. The twin is invisible to the Macintosh DeskTop, so it can't be used accidentally. When you do need it, you can immediately mount the twin onto the DeskTop from the DiskTwin CDEV. You won't even notice DiskTwin is working, so you can forget about it.

"But DiskTwin doesn't forget about you. DiskTwin runs continuously, creating a twin of your primary disk as often as you save to disk. Unlike software-only mirroring solutions, DiskTwin won't slow your system to a crawl. When your hard disk fails, mount the twin and you're back in business. Should the Macintosh SCSI hardware fail, your DiskTwin SCSI port remains operational."
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