

CAMP News

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Microsoft Office for Macintosh 2011: SkyDrive and Excel

Jeff Frankel was all set to dive right into Office 2011 at our January meeting, but Mother Nature had other ideas. So we'll try again this month. This presentation, the first in a series, will take a look at the cloud computing capabilities of Microsoft's SkyDrive and show what's new in MS Excel. (For a first look at SkyDrive, see last month's *CAMP News*.) We meet at 7:00 p.m. on February 9 at Buker Community Center in Augusta.

Held Hostage in the Cloud

Jeffrey Frankel

On February 1 macworld.com reported that on line backup service Mozy is raising its rates for home users from \$4.95/mo. for unlimited storage to \$5.95/mo. for up to 50GB storage and \$9.99/mo. for up to 125 GB storage. Server space in excess of 125 GB is sold in increments of 20GB @\$2/mo. The 125GB plan allows you to use your storage allowance to back up up to 3 computers. The former all-you-can-eat-for-\$4.95 plan was limited to one computer, I believe.

So if you use Mozy to back up a moderate amount of data and

only need to back up one computer, your monthly costs may be double or more what they were under the old plan. Sure, you can ditch Mozy for another on line backup service — but unless you enjoy über-fast upload speeds from your ISP, you're looking at a timespan of weeks or more to replicate your backup set on another company's servers.

A year or two ago users of on line storage services got a rude awakening when a photo sharing site suddenly went belly up, rendering all stored photos inaccessible to their owners. So we learned not to take for granted the *reliability* of companies we trust with our data.

Last year, Apple notified MobileMe users many months in

advance that it would be taking down Home Page, the first iteration of its web site content creation and hosting service. Users such as myself had ample opportunity to re-create the sites in iWeb or make sure we had local copies of all the component files. But from that change in policy I learned not to take for granted the *longevity* of any on line service.

What Mozy has now taught us is not to take for granted the *cost* of any on line service. This is hardly new: years ago Apple converted the free iTools to the \$99/yr MobileMe, and last year Time Warner Cable bumped up my monthly internet bill by \$5. Even so, if I were a Mozy user, I'd really feel like I'd just been kicked hard in the pants. ☀